

One who put me together in my mother's body" (Psalm 139:13). John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world..." and that is the "people" in the world.

We are to do it because Jesus **suffered and gave His life** for every human being. First John two says He is, "the atoning sacrifice, not just for our (Christian's) sins, but for the sins of **the whole world**". Romans 5:6, says He, "died for the **ungodly**". We are to do it because God **commands** us to do it. Jesus says, "Love your enemies / what good is it, if you love only those who love you, because even sinners do that."

Expressing Love by Helping

Our definition of "Love" is, "a warm affectionate, feeling" and we use it for everything from candy bars to our favorite football teams. The Greek term for this is, "*phileo*". We call Philadelphia, the city of "brotherly love". The Holy Spirit chose another term for the love we are to have - "*agape*" - which is our word "charity" - helping others.

In Luke 10, Jesus said "love" for God and our fellow man sum up all the demands God has for us. He illustrates love with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. A Jew (implied) is beaten and left for dead by the side of a road. A Samaritan helps him and goes beyond what is expected. Get this - Jews hated Samaritans, and there is a good chance that Jew would not have helped him, or his wife or his children.

Our country is fractured today with different cultures, races, religions, ethnic groups, sexual preferences and even male and female clamoring and fighting for their "rights". Our founding Fathers warned us if this happened, our republic will fall apart. Because of the widespread anger and violence, I believe we are fractured beyond repair, unless God steps in and works some kind of miracle. I hope I am wrong, but if not; I believe that as individual Christians and churches, our calling is to be

willing to help people, if they are part of "militia groups" on the right or "LGBT groups" on the left.

The news media reports all groups calling for us to "love" everybody. To most of them, this means accepting them as they are and accepting what they **are doing**. Christians cannot do this. Jesus did not do this. He loved and was willing to forgive the woman caught in adultery and thrown at His feet; but He told her to go and leave her sinful lifestyle (John 8). When it comes to things like violence, sexual orientation, abortion, merging males and females, etc. we need to do what God did for us - love the **sinner** and hate and rebuke and call for repentance when it comes to the **sin**.

In the TV show "*The Jeffersons*", George Jefferson, a black man, was accidentally invited to a business lunch being held by the KKK. The speaker told him to leave because he was not welcome there; so he went to the back and sat down. The speaker, spitting out his hatred, suddenly grabbed his chest and had a heart attack. No one did anything; so George went up, gave him mouth to mouth resuscitation and he lived. When the speaker learned what happened, he looked at Jefferson and said, "*I wish you had let me die.*"

George walked away, no doubt feeling he had done little good, and maybe even saying, "I'll never do anything like that again". Half way down the hall, he heard footsteps behind him. He turned around and a young boy caught him, stuck out his hand and said, "Thank you Mr. Jefferson for saving my dad's life". He did a lot of good and so can you and I.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says God will not heal our land unless we "turn from our wicked ways"; and for Christians in America, in this hour, this means reaching out in Christian love to everybody.