

Msg: **THE STRENGTH TO LOVE**

Series: Know God

Scripture: **Rom 15:1-13 NIV**

The question we fight with is does wicked and brutal killings by police of innocent Daunte Wright, 13-year-old Adam Toledo, unarmed George Floyd, A sleeping Breonna Taylor and countless others go unnoticed by God?

In this moment after a week of more black and brown bodies created with dignity, in the image God, being heinously murdered, discarded and disregarded is simply cruel evil incarnated.

The miraculous feat of seeing Jewish Believers and Gentile Believers living and worshipping God together seemed almost impossible. At this time. Jewish believers had just returned back to Rome after having been removed from by the Empire. Gentile Believers began practicing faith in Christ through their ethnic and cultural expression* without Jewish culture practice. Paul is attempting to reunite these significant groups of Believers; Jewish and Gentile. To allow a new spirit filled community; not excluding the culture but embracing their ethnic differences while recognizing the Covenant family they became!

As the church, we must pay the high price of unity!

We have to because our world...our cities...our families...are in need of a people that are willing to hope, believe and trust, past the pain of injustice and oppression levied against our people. HOW DO WE DO THIS>> with THE STRENGTH TO LOVE.

How do we build this strength...First we must:

1. REMOVE YOUR IDOLS

Idols- an image for worship

Idolatry is “Image” worship

Romans 1:25 NIV

“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NIV

“For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”

The issue is what or who do we worship.

MAKE UP YOUR MIND, WHO DO YOU SERVE??

I CAN'T BEND MY KNEES TO GOD AND MONEY AT THE SAME TIME.

Part of the reason the BODY has a blown-out knee is because we are double-minded as to do we worship

Or The Unbearable weight self-worship

THE UNCONSCIONABLE "LOVE OF COUNTRY" INSTEAD OF THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

THE IDOLATROUS WORSHIP OF A BADGE, INSTEAD OF WORSHIPPING THE GOD WHO CREATED THOSE BLACK AND BROWN BODIES, IN HIS IMAGE.

THE WORSHIP OF KNOWLEDGE INSTEAD OF WORSHIPPING THE ALL-KNOWING GOD

THE WORSHIP OF CREATION INSTEAD OF WORSHIPPING THE CREATOR

Why should you remove your idols?

Removing your Idol makes space for The True God

Removing your Idol makes space for His Spirit

Removing your idol makes space for Others

*Idolatry limits our ability to humble ourselves to others, because we haven't first humbled ourselves to the true And Living God.

1. RESTRUCTURE YOUR STRENGTH

Rom. 15:1-12

'We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

Strong- greek means *powerful or capable*

Pronunciation: doo-nat-os

Strong is another word for TOUGH

As MLK said we must be:

TOUGH-MIND AND TENDER-HEARTED

WE ARE RESOLUTE. UNMOVED. DETERMINED.

Tough Minded represents the character of a Just and righteous God.

We must not be hard hearted, callous or malicious in our treatment of others.

Tenderhearted represents mercy, grace and love of God

Christ became servant to Jews, So Gods promises confirmed from the Patriarchs”

We must Resource other’s weakness

So, when we find our brothers or sisters, like Our Brother Earl “DMX”Simmons said “I’m slippin, I’m fallin’ I can’t get up” we are there to hold them up!

IDENTIFY YOUR PRIVILEGE AND LEVERAGE IT FOR THOSE WITHOUT YOUR PRIVILEGE.

MY PRIVILEGE:

As a 38-year-old, black/latinx, straight able, cisgender male, disciple of Jesus with consistent income, I have privilege

1. Male: Tear down Patriarchy Sexism against my sisters
2. Straight Cisgender Male: stand up against homophobia and transphobia against my LGBTQ brothers and sisters
3. Able: as person without disabilities, I must use my privilege to advocate for the equal treatment of disabled person
4. AS A BLACK AND LATINX PERSON, I expect my white brothers and sister to lay down their privilege. I speak again injustice of my Asian American and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters
5. Income- In this evil capitalist empire that marginalizes and dehumanizes people with out, I must use my money, my treasure my resources for others!
6. Even as a disciple of Yeshua —in this part of the world I have privilege, I must see that people of other beliefs system than mine are treated with dignity, love and respect.

1. RECONCILE WHAT GOD REDEEMED

Romans 5:10 NIV

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

Reconciled - to change mutually, to compound a difference. Exchange, restoration to the divine

Same Mind toward each other Jesus Had
One Mind and One Voice; UNITY
Accept one another

Healing ethnic division
Laying down our difference and culturally preferences
Both "Gentiles" and "Jews" preferring one another!

REUNITE WHAT GOD RECONCILED

REPAIR WHAT GOD RECONCILED

Repair Relationship with People culturally and ethnically different than you.

REBUILD WHAT GOD RECONCILED

"YOU CAN'T BE RECONCILED TO GOD AND RACIST TO HIS PEOPLE"

1. REMEMBER WHAT GOD SAID

Ps. 18:49 NIV

'Therefore, I will praise you, Lord , among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.

Deuteronomy 32:43 NIV

Rejoice, you nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

Ps. 117:1-2 NIV

Praise the Lord , all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord .

Isaiah 11:10 NIV

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Ezekiel 36:22-28 NIV

“Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes. “ ‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.””

Gentiles will Glorify God
Strength to endure

God is MY Hope! I’m filled with Joy and Peace because of Trust in Jesus!

Dr King said—

“Evil can be cast out, not by man alone nor by a dictatorial God who invades our lives, but when we open the door and invite God through Christ to enter. These deadly paralyzing evils can be removed by a humanity perfectly united through obedience with God.

Racial justice, a genuine possibility in our nation and in the world, will come neither by our frail and often misguided efforts nor by God imposing his will on wayward men but when enough people open their lives to God and allow him to pour his triumphant, divine energy into their souls!”

Right now let’s pray for God to give us His supernatural Strength to Love!