

Peace Is Found Only in God

This month's events in Virginia remind us of the hatred that exists in our country, both historically and presently. What can we do? It begins with you and me demonstrating our love for each other.

"Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another**" (John 13:34-35).

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:9-18).

Love is of God (I John 4:7-11) and requires action on our part. It is not enough to say we love another person, but it must be demonstrated. When our love for each other is evident, then our neighbors, co-workers, and community will know God abides in us (I John 4:12-16). In God, man will find peace when they need it most.

For the elders,

Terry Clark