

sees these problems, but many of us don't seem to be able to diagnose the cause. That is because the problem isn't skin deep. It goes much deeper than that, in fact, it goes all the way to the very heart of man.

Jesus said in Matthew 24: 12 as one of the signs of our time "That because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall grow cold". Now everybody knows that when a human heart begins to grow cold it eventually dies.

So if we know this then **somebody** should do something about it! Well, there are many people and organizations throughout the world that are trying to do something about it, but the problem is, they are going about it the wrong way. They are trying to put Band-Aids on the surface problems, yet all the while ignoring the root cause, which is a cold heart or lack of love.

What if a decree was made that all people of every country, color and belief were to respect and accept everyone else, regardless of their differences? Unfortunately, even if someone had the authority to issue such an order, it would never work, because kindness, understanding and love must come from the heart, not as a dutiful response to a law. The world has all sorts of laws for all sorts of rights and wrongs. The world has secular law and religious laws galore. There are so many laws that there are whole universities dedicated solely to learning them. Ironically enough, Jesus, when He was on earth, summed all the laws of man into just two: Love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.

When a person has been bereaved, lost their possessions, house or land, or in some other way been the brunt of violence or cruelty perpetrated by another person or group of people, no law is going to change the victim's attitudes overnight. Even if they wanted to love and accept others, old habits die hard, and no amount of willpower can instantly overcome deep-seated resent-

ment or hatred.

When a religious law directs a person to "go to church" or pray five times a day, that law is not going to make that person love God unconditionally. There are many reasons why people obey religious laws, but the point is, if you have unconditional love for God and man, then you don't need laws to force you to be good or love others, you will simply desire to be good and loving for love's sake alone.

Realistically, who is capable of suddenly releasing resentment, hatred, fear or other deep-seated negative attitudes they may hold toward individuals or entire groups of people? Most of us lack the determination to do that. The good news is that despite ourselves, it is still possible for us to truly love, understand and accept others, regardless of their past or background. The key to such love comes from the ultimate source of love, God Himself. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). He is the all-powerful Spirit of love who created the universe and brought us all into being. To show us what He is like, He came down to our level by sending His own Son to earth in the form of a man, Jesus Christ. Jesus' entire ministry was one of love. He experienced human suffering, and had great compassion on the people as He ministered to their spiritual and physical needs. He became one of us. He taught that we could fulfill all the laws of God by keeping just one great commandment: to love. (See Matthew 22:37-40.)

"Who then is my neighbor?" Jesus responded with the story of the Good Samaritan, in which He clearly showed that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help, regardless of their race, belief, color, nationality or cultural background. (See Luke 10:25-37.) Only Jesus has enough love to circumvent the laws of man and religion by giving man the power to live the one true law; "The Law of Love".

When we are connected with the God of love through Jesus, His

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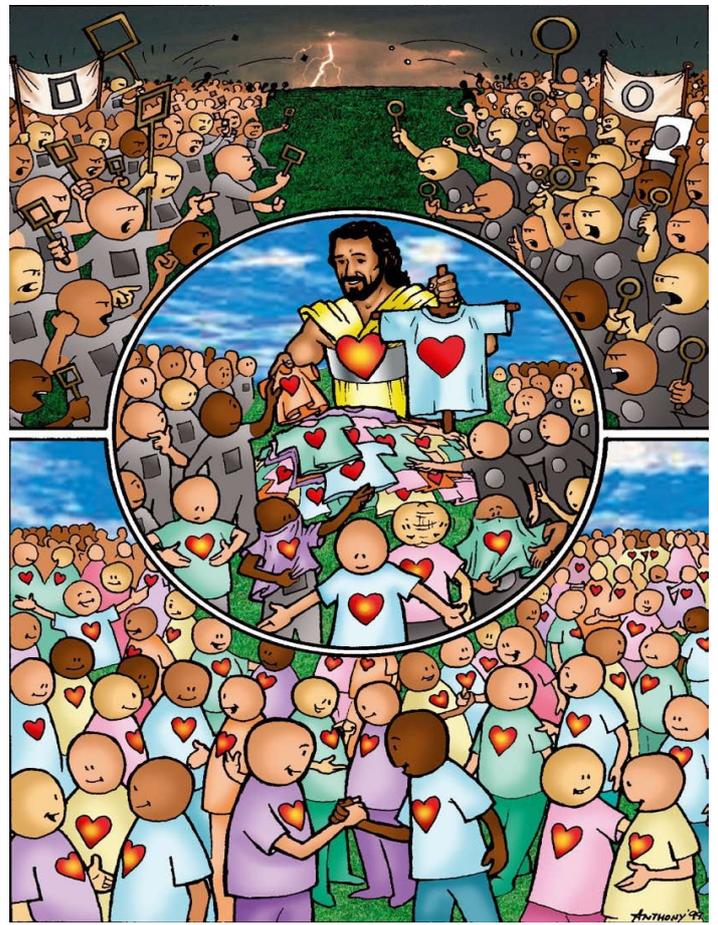
Spirit within us can empower us to do what is otherwise humanly impossible: to truly love others the way we love ourselves. We can then view each person as the beautiful and unique creation of God that they are. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What a wonderful world it could be if we were all color-blind and race-unconscious, where the only thing we saw when we looked on a person was love--the color of love! It's possible, in Jesus, where "there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you all are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Do you want such love for others? It's yours for the asking!--"For God is love." He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to give His life for you. "For God so loved the world [you and me], that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus will freely forgive you of all your sins and give you eternal life if you will simply ask Him to come into your heart. Receive Him now by sincerely praying a prayer like the following:  
**Dear Jesus, I want to know You. Thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I now open the door of my heart, and I ask You to please come in and give me Your free gift of eternal life. Fill me with Your love and help me be more tolerant of others, regardless of who they are. Amen.**

The Bible tells us that the day is soon coming when Jesus will personally return "in great power and glory" to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. The exploitive and exclusive regimes of man will be no more when "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord" (Revelation 11:15).

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### THE COLOR OF LOVE

Our world has big problems, violence, greed, racial tensions, religious disputes, wars, in fact, the list goes go on and on. Everybody

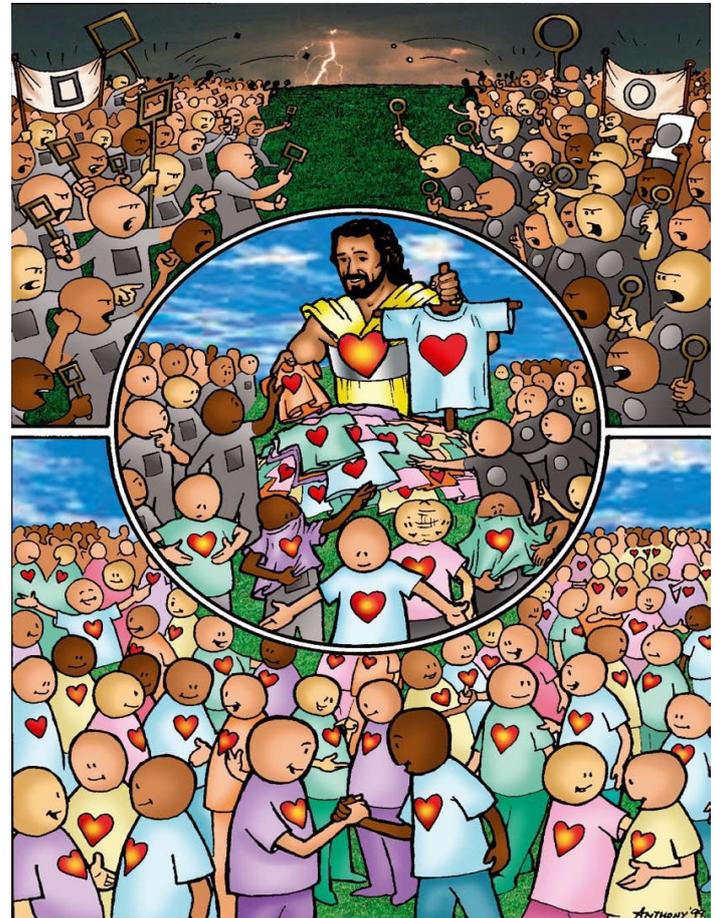
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