



The Power of Love

Lord, too often, just when we think we have seen the worst people can do, things get even worse. The human capacity for hurting others is enormous. The devastating damage words can do in this day of instant uncontrollable communication is mind-boggling. The many ways people have invented to cause physical harm to others is staggering. When these capabilities are combined with

self-centeredness and hate, the destructive power unleashed seems unstoppable. . .

The only hope is that, in Christ, the human capacity to love is also enormous. Lord, help us to put your lessons about love into practice so that we can overcome the destructiveness that threatens to overwhelm us.

'You have heard it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:14-18

This week pray for:

The victims of gun violence and for those willing to commit such senseless acts.

The TV program 60 Minutes reported Sunday that the incidents of mass shootings and other shootings where military high velocity ammunition is used, have become so common that emergency medical personnel around the country are regularly carrying the kinds of tourniquets, and other equipment to stop bleeding once only needed on the battle field. There are people around the country, including school children who feel they need, and are being given, special training called 'stop the bleed' to deal with the devastating damage inflicted by this ammunition. High velocity ammunition is designed to do as much damage as possible. "It's like a bomb going off inside the body." Pray for school children who feel the need to carry a 'stop the bleed', kit with their school books. . . Pray for everyone who lives with the fear that makes this action feel necessary.

The people of Yemen. U.N.C.F. reports that in Yemen, 10,000 people have died, and a child dies every 10 minutes of preventable illness as a result of the U.S. backed war Saudi Arabia is waging there. The country is also facing what could be the worst famine the world has seen in 100 years because of this war.

People seeking refuge from physical, mental, or economic violence – thousands of people are on the move seeking a better life or even the chance for life itself.



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