



Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS

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LET'S LOVE!

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | February 15, 2017

"Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, 'cause hate in your heart will consume you too." - Will Smith

You're right it's not easy to show love when hate is being perpetrated toward you. When people cross us our fleshly nature says retaliate. Most often that's our first response. Thank God as Christians we don't always follow our first response when it's anti-Christ. Sometimes when we are crossed by an unbeliever we may be willing to shake it off quicker than when the ugliness is from a brother or sister in Christ. A much-needed change we all must lean toward is recognizing when hate is trying to sprout in our heart toward someone and declare to forgive the person(s) and choose to love. That's right, love is a choice and having God's spirit in us, allow us to freely make that choice. With the Spirit of God in us, let's love!

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8 NKJV)

Our ability to choose love defines us as having a relationship with God as His son, as well as knowing God. God's decision to sacrifice His Son for our sins, realizing we did not love Him, was His way of saying, Let's Love. His love for us, no matter how we rejected Him, inspired Jesus' willingness to face death in our place. I believe our God expects our appreciation of His love for us, when we were un-lovable, be continuously demonstrated to the world by us loving those who do not deserve it. What's my proof? 1 John 4:11 (NKJV) is the proof, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

There is daily in the news and in our personal circles demonstrations of hate. Murders, lying, stealing, gossip, respect of person, prejudice, inequality, and the list is endless, speaks to the spirit of hate in our world. These acts violate people and often produce hate in their hearts toward others and sometimes even of one's self. Years ago there was a popular song that spoke about the world needing love. Obviously the need is greater today as the spirit of darkness is rapidly spreading the cancer of hate worldwide. The body of Christ, that is every born again believer, must make the decision, let's love! How do we do it? Every opportunity to demonstrate love instead of hate we must commit to do so. We won't change everyone, but it will help someone. If we can help somebody in our life's journey to see God's love through our actions, small or large, then our living won't be in vain. God is love and the world needs to see what that looks like through us. We must decide, "LET'S LOVE!"

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles, is the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures. For more information, CelebrateChange.org | Info@CelebrateChange.org | 310-436-6336 x216.

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