

# A VIBRANT AND VITAL LOVE | WEEK #05

The Only Practical Solution | January 28<sup>th</sup>

## WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

Hate thrives in the \_\_\_\_\_ dome of meaning.

Hate dehumanizes and is the root of homicide, genocide and human \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT WISDOM DOES SCRIPTURE OFFER US?

Matthew 5:43-48

Many in Jesus' day chose \_\_\_\_\_ as the appropriate response to an enemy.

Jesus offers an \_\_\_\_\_ response to an enemy.

Children \_\_\_\_\_ their parents.

Agape love has no \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul believes you can't outrun your \_\_\_\_\_. (Galatians 6:7-10)

## DON'T MISS THIS!

A vibrant and vital love chooses \_\_\_\_\_ towards agape over \_\_\_\_\_ towards enemies.

## HOW CAN I LIVE THIS IN MY EVERYDAY, NORMAL LIFE?

A hospitable heart is mindful of the \_\_\_\_\_ living in everyone.

A hospitable heart knows that agape \_\_\_\_\_ enemies.

A hospitable heart embraces agape as the most \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ force on earth.

## WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US AND OUR WORLD IF WE ALL LIVED OUT THIS WISDOM?

Agape is the practical path to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. Consider the cliff that your hatred is leading you towards.
2. Read "Loving your Enemies" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. Look for a practical way to demonstrate agape love to an enemy this week.

## THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS:

1. What are some personal aspects or situations that trigger feelings of hate in your life? How might recognizing and understanding these triggers contribute to personal growth and transformation?
2. Can you think of a specific person or group that you have harbored feelings of animosity towards? Reflect on the reasons behind these feelings and whether they are based on personal experiences or societal influences.
3. Consider the statement that hate is the root of homicide, genocide, and human extinction. How does this tension between hate and its consequences impact your worldview? In what areas of life or society do you see the destructive effects of hate most prominently?
4. Reflect on the teachings of Matthew 5:43-48. How does Jesus' call to love enemies challenge societal norms and expectations? In what practical ways can love for enemies be expressed, both in significant conflicts and everyday interactions?
5. Consider the metaphor of feeding the compassionate wolf within. Reflect on instances where you have nourished positive qualities in yourself or others. How can a focus on nurturing compassion and love contribute to personal resilience and positive outcomes?
6. Explore examples from your own life or history where love, particularly agape love, has transformed relationships or situations. In what ways might practicing agape love contribute to breaking the cycle of hate and fostering understanding?

