

## **“Black Souls Matter!”<sup>1</sup>**

So very, very much has been said, written, videoed, broadcasted, graffitied, promoted through social media regarding the mantra, “Black Lives Matter.” More importantly, should not the members of the Church be concerned and retort, “Black souls matter!”? What has recently been witnessed in the streets of our many larger cities demonstrates a spiritual poverty and anaemia – and souls in serious jeopardy.

St. Paul writes, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth” (Eph. 4:29) and “Never pay evil back for evil to anyone,” and “be at peace with all men.” (Rom. 12:17-18); yet the harsh and crude rhetoric in our streets has given way to anger, division and hatred. St. Paul also in Ephesians 4 writes, “Do not let the sun go down on your anger,” yet a contagion of anger spreads, grows, intensifies in our streets from day to day, week to week. St. Paul adds, “Do not let your anger lead you to sin,” yet this growing anger (and hatred) gives way and, in many cases, provokes violence in the form of property, businesses and lives destroyed. What has been demonstrated in our cities’ streets is evidence of a serious lack of Christian education among many of the “protestors”, i.e. no church, no Sunday Schooling, and certainly no catechesis.

And if they had ever been exposed to such at one time, it likely was crushed and brain-washed out of them courtesy of liberal university professor types; who have as their agenda the rattling of young cages, driving out archaic concepts like Christianity, and replacing the void with Marxist/anti-American ideals. Therefore real conversation is no longer allowed, just aggressive oppression to those that leftist leaders have duly name-called and labelled as deplorables, racists, homophobes, bigots, white-privileged, Bible-thumping Christians.

Some who were teens or in college in the late 60’s will remember the Chicago riots (at the ’68 Democrat convention) and Vietnam war demonstrations. Back then, a line from the song, “Sympathy for the Devil” of that same era, was being played out: “Every cop a criminal, and all the sinners saints; ... just call me Lucifer, ‘cause I’m in need of some restraint.... Ah, what’s puzzling you is just the nature of my game.” (The accompanying illustration executed some 50 years ago depicts the verses of that song.)

Here we are a half century later, and those lyrics hauntingly echo reality once again. Most recently we’ve had the Ferguson and Baltimore “events.”

Perhaps a big difference this time is that those on the so-called right tie themselves in knots attempting to defend themselves from the “Left’s” name-calling and labelling. This cowardly reaction has been proven useless, because the Left is not interested in the right’s explanations, excuses, apologies, symbolic efforts or such expressions offered.

Yet the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ has something to say: “Black souls matter!” The soul of every black aborted baby matters. The soul of every black youth without a father and caught up in gangs and drugs matters. The soul of every black person senselessly killed or wounded in our big cities over any given weekend matters. The soul of every black person that is led astray by godless extremists matters.

The same must be said for the souls of every race. After all, the soul of our entire nation matters — to Christ our Saviour who died to redeem the souls of sinners, and to the members of the Church who desire along with our Saviour that everyone come to the knowledge of salvation (see I Timothy 2:1-8).

Only by God’s grace and with hearts changed through the Holy Spirit, may we joyfully look forward to the day when we sit together with souls from all nations, all races at the heavenly banquet table before the Lamb in His kingdom without end.

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