



ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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Dear Friends,

As a nation, February has several things that are emphasized one is Presidents Day and others are Black Heritage Month and Valentine's Day. It seems that the only one not totally commercialized is about American Black history. It's sad that President's Day is more about fantastic car sales than the history of our Presidents. A young adult gave his opinion to me that Valentine's Day was a conspiracy by the retailers to get his money. I didn't argue with him, I just listened and thought how sad that so many people have such a bad attitude about celebrating loving for one another.

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* Again in I John 3:23 *And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us.* So how can we best love one another? Especially those who are harder to love!

I found this old prayer in my reading and thought it a good example of how we can love others as He has loved us.

A Prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is injury, let me bring pardon;

Where there is hatred, love,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

I hope in this year of elections, debates, and, rancor we Christians will take the high road that our Lord and Master has commanded us to follow. We are encourage to love those who disagree with us politically and to pray for those who would persecute us for our views. If we only love those who agree with us, we not doing anything different than what non Christians do?

My prayer for you is an abundance of opportunities to love others as Jesus has loved you!

Thank you for the love and care you have given Alpha and all those who hear the message of forgiveness and learn to live an abiding life.



Richard