

I. What Matters?

A. Social Struggle

1. Black Lives Matter
 - a. In the summer of 2013, after George Zimmerman's acquittal for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, the movement began with the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter.[26]
 - b. The movement was co-founded by three black community organizers: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi.[27][28]
 - (1) Garza, Cullors and Tometi met through "Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity" (BOLD), a national organization that trains community organizers.[20]
 - (2) They began to question how they were going to respond to what they saw as the devaluation of black lives after Zimmerman's acquittal.
 - (3) Garza wrote a Facebook post titled "A Love Note to Black People" in which she said: "Our Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter". Cullors replied: "#BlackLivesMatter".
 - (4) Tometi then added her support, and Black Lives Matter was born as an online campaign.[20]
2. Blue Lives Matter
 - a. On December 20, 2014, in the wake of the killings of officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, a group of law enforcement officers formed Blue Lives Matter to counter media reports that they perceived to be anti-police.[7][8]
 - b. Originating in New York City in December 2014, Blue Lives Matter NYC[10] is an organization and current nationwide movement that was created to help law enforcement officers and their families during their times of need.
 - (1) Sergeant Joey Imperatrice along with Officers Chris Brinkley and Carlos Delgado felt "compelled to show support for their brothers and sisters in blue" and handed out bracelets that stated Blue Lives Matter.[10]
 - (2) They decided to create an organization which became the non-profit Blue Lives Matter NYC.
 - (a) This BLM organization's mission is to raise awareness and encourage public aid for the needs of police officers,
 - (b) to help police officers assist one another,
 - (c) and to provide a police officer's family with comfort and support as they go through hard times.[10]
 - (3) This campaign is designed to raise both awareness and money for the families in need.

B. Core Challenge: What matters?

1. People struggle with the internal need to determine their significance, to make their mark on the world, to be somebody compared with everybody

- a. Real desire for equality, justice, and appreciation
 - b. BUT, the world divides, the world discredits, the world dismisses, the world takes sides and lashes out
2. Christians, how does the church answer the question?
- a. Not by denying that people and their needs are important
 - (1) Not by turning a blind eye and a deaf ear
 - (2) Not by retreating and hiding
 - (3) Not by taking sides and lashing out
 - b. But by realizing that, above all, **what God does matters most.**
 - c. And, **if you really want your life to matter in this world, discover what God is doing and join Him in it.**

II. What God Does Matters

A. Paul and the Corinthians

1. **1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (ESV)** *⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*
2. The Farmer and the Dale
 - a. Dale planted, Steve watered
 - b. Despite the harvest, neither of us caused a single thing to grow
 - (1) We provided the opportunity for seed to sprout
 - (2) We worked to provide a context for the plants to flourish
 - (3) We prayed for divine intervention
 - (4) But we can take no real credit for success since the entire process of growth, development, maturity, and seed production was entirely the work of God and out of our hands.
3. As in the natural world, so it is in the spiritual world:
 - a. we can provide an opportunity for growth by preaching and teaching and training
 - b. We can encourage growth through prayer and discipleship
 - c. But the effect of spiritual life and maturity is completely in the hands of the Holy Spirit!
 - d. **What God does matters!**
 - (1) It is not what we do as farmers that ultimately determines the harvest
 - (2) But what God does as Creator and Sustainer of the world
 - (3) So, **if I really want to make a difference, if I really want to matter, I need to discover what God is doing and join Him in it.**

B. What is God doing?

1. God is keeping His promises.
 - a. **Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)** *¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you*

- all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
- b. By faith in Jesus Christ, you are children of Abraham and through Him and you, God is blessing all the families of the earth
 - (1) Through Christ’s life and death and resurrection
 - (2) Through your faith and faithfulness
2. God is shepherding His people
 - a. **Isaiah 40:11 (ESV)** ¹¹ *He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*
 - (1) Comfort, strength, compassion, dependability
 - b. **Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)** ² *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*
 - (1) Does not deny the difficulties inherent in living in a sinful, fallen world
 - (2) Expresses His commitment to keep and sustain us in the course of life!
 - c. As you care for one another, as you serve one another, as you love one another, God shepherds His people
3. God is building His dwelling
 - a. You are God’s temple
 - (1) **1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV)** ⁹ *For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.*
 - (2) **1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?*
 - b. God establishes Himself in your life and in your church in order to establish His presence in your community
4. God is accomplishing His mission
 - a. **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*
 - b. God is accomplishing His mission by
 - (1) Announcing the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - (2) Calling people to faith in Jesus Christ
 - (3) Redeeming and regenerating people to new life in Jesus Christ
 - (4) Restoring His broken image through Christ
 - (5) Sending His new creations to spread the knowledge of His glory
 - (a) The Great Commission of Matthew 28 is the reiteration of Genesis 1:28!
 - (b) **Discover what God is doing and join Him in it.**

C. God warns of future judgment

1. **Revelation 14:9-11 (ESV)** ⁹ *And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and*

whoever receives the mark of its name.”

2. God warns of future judgment so that those He loves will be motivated to join Him in His redemptive work to rescue the lost from impending doom.
3. Now is not a time to retreat and hide in the comfort of silence, but to stand and proclaim the truth of God’s love in Christ and the call to faith and forgiveness.
 - a. This is what God is doing
 - b. This is what matters
 - c. **Join God in doing what matters!**
 - (1) Teach a Sunday school class
 - (2) Support a mission
 - (3) Speak a word
 - (4) Pray for direction