



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



LET'S BE

FRIENDS AGAIN.

Nino

*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. **John 13:34–35***

If you stuck two pins on a map to represent the political views of late Supreme Court Justices Antonin (Nino) Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG to her fans), you'd find them at opposite ends of the world. Yet despite their sharp political differences, they were very good friends.

Some Things Are More Important Than Votes Judge Jeffrey Sutton painted this portrait of the late justices' unusual friendship from personal experience [1]:

During one of my last visits with Justice Scalia, I saw striking evidence of the Scalia-Ginsburg relationship. As I got up to leave his chambers, he pointed to two dozen roses on his table and noted that he needed to take them down to "Ruth" for her birthday.

"Wow," I said, "I doubt I have given a total of twenty-four roses to my wife in almost thirty years of marriage."

"You ought to try it sometime," he retorted.

Unwilling to give him the last word, I pushed back: "So what good have all these roses done for you? Name one five-four case of any significance where you got Justice Ginsburg's vote."

"Some things," he answered, "are more important than votes."

I let him have the last word.

If you scratched Nino and RBG, one would have bled crimson red and the other royal blue. They

saw their work through a different set of lenses and held strong, often divergent opinions.

But after quitting time at the office, Nino and RBG were "best buddies." By their own admission, they were an odd couple. Their families were very close. They entertained at one another's houses for New Year's celebrations. They traveled to India together. They shared a love of opera and had complimentary personalities. Nino hunted game, and RBG's husband, Marty, cooked it. (Nino especially loved to eat Marty's cooking!)

For these friends, mutual respect and shared interests mattered even more than the outcome of their landmark court cases. Their relationship was a breath of fresh air which offers a hopeful ideal in our divided time. It reminds us disagreement is not a turn-off, but an invitation to know others more deeply so we can find the common good and love better.

All Battles Are Not Worth Fighting

With bitter division and discord tearing our nation apart, Christians have taken places on both sides of the conflict. Sadly, we have adopted many of the same divisive tactics and attitudes as the lost world toward others with whom we disagree. This is unhealthy and unhelpful to society. Often we are more like an easily polluted stream of water than the salt Jesus called us to be.

It's easy to justify our politics on the basis of our view of truth. "Both sides can't be morally right," we argue. Truth matters in every area of life, but not all truths are worth the price of friendship. We do ourselves and the . . . [Full Article](#)

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RBG

How Do We Love Like Jesus?

Q. How does one “love like Jesus” in a world which equates His love with weakness?

A. C.S. Lewis said, “Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.” We know Jesus demonstrated love for the world through His sacrificial death on a cross. We know He displayed love in His life through selflessly teaching and feeding the multitudes; powerfully casting out demons; mercifully healing the sick, blind, mute, and lame; and dramatically raising the dead. These demonstrations of love were not driven by an affectionate feeling. What we see through the biblical testimony of Jesus in the Scriptures is an unwavering desire for the loved person’s ultimate good.

Our view of others’ ultimate good is often clouded by the harsh realities of our sinful world. We want to think the best of people; but they fail us, turn on us, and betray our confidence. This hurts our pride, leading to resentment and bitterness. Then instead of thinking about what is in others’ best interests, our thoughts zero in on their offenses against us.

Like Queen Elsa in the Disney movie *Frozen*, we erect walls between us and those we love because of our fear of being hurt or of hurting others. Sometimes we withhold others’ ultimate good because of jealousy fueled by insecurity or because of envious covetousness. We’re a rotten bunch.

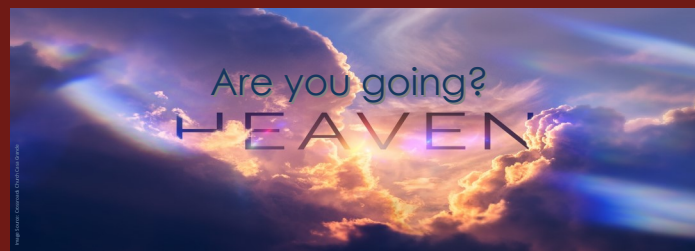
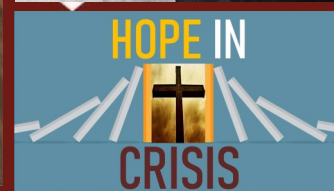
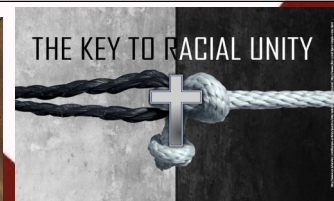
If our own sinfulness were not a sufficient obstacle to love, consider this: Love has been marginalized, misunderstood, misrepresented, mislabeled, taken advantage of, betrayed, spat upon, crowned with thorns, beaten within an inch of its life, torn to shreds, and crucified by its enemies — remember what they did to Jesus? Love isn’t safe. It isn’t easy or convenient. In fact, it may cost you everything. Love anyway.

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket — safe, dark, motionless, airless — it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. . . . The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers . . . of love is Hell. — C.S. Lewis

Jesus knew the risks associated with loving others. Aren’t you glad He didn’t allow these risks to keep Him from sharing His love? We will never love like

Jesus until our hearts and minds have been transformed by Him. He experienced the same disappointments as you and me. He endured the same interpersonal stressors as we do, yet He always responded in a way which sought others’ ultimate good.

What was the difference? Unlike us, Jesus saw the world’s brokenness through God’s eyes and looked upon its pain and desperation with God’s heart. This allowed Him to see with laser vision through the thick, ugly clouds of sin which often cause us to put the needs of our hurting world out of focus. Jesus’ unclouded vision of reality enabled . . . [Full Article](#)



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