



1 John 4:20-21 reads, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

In reading this scripture, I come to understand this truth: to love God is to love my brother and sister. They *must* be one in the same, inseverable, indivisible, unconditional, non-negotiable.

This means that through hurt and pain, we are called to *love*. In the fight against injustice, fear, and uncertainty, we are called to *love*. In times of confusion, misunderstanding, and disagreement, we are called to *love*. And in our darkest of moments, where it seems the lights have all but gone out, we are called to *love*.

As I reflect on the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I see that this was his purpose to this nation and this world. He served as a conduit, projecting the light of

God's love during one of our nation's darkest moments. This was a love that transcended all. All cultures. All faiths. All peoples.

We honor him this day not only because of the great many things he did to heal and unite this country, but because he was a man deeply tied to his faith, family, and nation. He sacrificed everything because he had an unwavering belief that God's kingdom would be realized here on earth through a love of one another. This belief, this unyielding faith in the goodness of humanity inspired him to fight for a more just and humane world for all.

So this day, as we celebrate Dr. King's legacy, let us remember that we are a community of brothers and sisters, and our relationship with God is a reflection of the love we give to one another. As it strengthens, so too does our connection to the Almighty. As it wanes, so too does our closeness to the Almighty.

My prayer is that we express this love to each other this year and beyond, truly and more deeply, as Dr. King would have dreamed, and as God has ordained.

**Ezrah Bryant, Esq.**

Assistant Dean of Students, Office of Community Standards