

LOVE. NO MATTER WHAT

Loving Environmentalists, No Matter What
February 1-2, 2020

Romans 1:20 (NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

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Series Verse – Proverbs 19:11 (TPT)

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“A wise person demonstrates patience, for mercy means holding your tongue. When you are insulted, be quick to forgive and forget it, for you are virtuous when you overlook an offense.”

Psalms 24:1-2 (NLT)

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

We are unloving, no matter what, regarding Environmentalists because:

- We dismiss all environmentalists as radicals or kooks.

Job 12:7-10 (MSG)

“But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn't it clear that they all know and agree that GOD is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand—Every living soul, yes, every breathing creature?”

- We discount the valid issues because of invalid ones.

Psalms 119:160-163 (TPT)

The sum total of all your words adds up to absolute truth, and every one of your righteous decrees is everlasting. The powerful elite have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart trembles in awe because of your miracle-words. Your promises are the source of my bubbling joy; the revelation of your word thrills me like one who has discovered

hidden treasure. I despise every lie and hate every falsehood, for I am passionate about keeping your precepts.

- We deny our God-given duty to care for his creation.

Proverbs 12:10-11 (GW)

A righteous person cares even about the life of his animals, but the compassion of wicked people is nothing but cruelty. Whoever works his land will have plenty to eat, but the one who chases unrealistic dreams has no sense.

God's Plan for a Balanced Approach to Environmentalism

- We are the caretakers of creation.

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

- We are the conservationists of earth.

Genesis 2:15 (MSG)

GOD took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

Preserve the Earth for as Long as God keeps it in Existence

2 Peter 3:10-13 (TPT)

The day of the Lord will come and take everyone by surprise—as unexpected as a home invasion. The atmosphere will be set on fire and vanish with a horrific roar, and the heavenly bodies will melt away as in a tremendous blaze. The earth and every activity of man will be laid bare. Since all these things are on the verge of being dismantled, don't you see how vital it is to live a holy life? We must be consumed with godliness while we anticipate and help to speed up the coming of the day of God, when the atmosphere will be set on fire and the heavenly bodies consumed in a blaze. But as we wait, we trust in God's royal proclamation to be fulfilled. There are coming heavens new in quality, and an earth new in quality, where righteousness will be fully at home.

We love Environmentalists, no matter what, when we:

- 1 Respect their opinions and passion.

2 Peter 3:15 (TPT)

And keep in mind that our Lord's extraordinary patience simply means more opportunity for salvation, just as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

2

Recommit to recycle and use renewable energy if possible.

Exodus 23:9-11 (GW)

“Never oppress foreigners. You know what it’s like to be foreigners because you were foreigners living in Egypt. For six years you may plant crops in your fields and harvest them, but in the seventh year you must leave the land unplowed and unused. In that way the poor among your people will have food to eat, and wild animals may eat what the poor people leave. You must do the same with your vineyards and olive groves.”

3

Respond to the needs of those affected by climate change.

Matthew 7:12 (MSG)

“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.”

Romans 12:6-19 (MSG)

If you preach, just preach God’s Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don’t take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don’t get bossy; if you’re put in charge, don’t manipulate; if you’re called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don’t let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face. Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy; share tears when they’re down. Get along with each other; don’t be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don’t be the great somebody. Don’t hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody. Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you to do. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it.”

**Recommended Reading for Love. No Matter What Series:
Unoffendable by Brant Hansen**

Please send any questions you have regarding the “Love. No Matter What” series to questions@gracechurchco.com so we can answer them during our Q&A Night on February 8!

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