

Human Lives Matter

"Black Lives Matter!" This shout is still being heard occasionally these days. And I agree, absolutely and unconditionally. Black lives do matter. But saying that raises some questions.

First, what do we mean by the word "matter"? What does it mean to say that something matters?

According to the dictionary, "matter," in the verb sense used here, means "to be important" and "to have significance." I would add that when something "matters," it means that that thing has value; it should be protected and preserved.

So it means that the lives of black people are important; they are significant; they are valuable; they should be protected and preserved. That is my sense of "Black Lives Matter."

Why? And don't jump on me; it's a legitimate question. Why do black lives matter?

The ready answer is, "Because they do," which is not an answer. Is there an answer to the "Why" question?

We can dance around this for days, but the bottom line at which we will eventually arrive is, it's a matter of right and wrong. To have regard for the value of a person's life, whether or not that person is black, is right. Having no regard for the value of a person's life is simply wrong.

So, who says black lives matter? I do, and perhaps you do, but does that make it true? Who gets to decide what is right and what is wrong?

Centuries ago the Roman Caesars declared themselves to be gods. Many other dictators have done the same. They used their power to say what was good and what was bad; what was right and what was wrong. Sometimes they said it by a royal decree, but at times it was an impulsive decision. They often abused their power and trampled on what we have come to think of as the "human rights" of their subjects.

In the United States today, our elected and appointed leaders, lawmakers, and judges make decisions about right and wrong. Do we think that they are better at making those decisions than the dictators of the past? I submit that we all know that their determinations and decrees quite often leave much to be desired. Decisions are too often influenced by selfish ambition and political maneuvering.

We could say, "We live in a democracy. The will of the majority should say what's right and what's wrong." But that is exactly what the current wave of protesting is about. For four centuries the majority of people in the United States have complacently agreed that devaluing the lives of large numbers of people who are "not like us" is either to our advantage, or not our concern. What the majority accepts as "right" is often very wrong.

Then who gets to say what is right and what is wrong? I submit that those who cry, "Black Lives Matter!" are implying that there is an absolute standard of right and wrong that applies to all people, all the time. If a thing is right, it's right, not because you or I or anyone says so, but because there is an absolute, universal standard that is not subject to any individual's or group's preferences or opinions or interpretations.

Is there such a standard? Throughout human history most civilizations have embraced some form of a code of conduct that says "Do this; don't do that." In some cases it has been known as "the law of the tribe," but many have believed that God has set a universal, absolute standard — don't murder; don't steal; don't treat others in ways you would not want to be treated; and so on — and that most people are born with at least some understanding that those actions are wrong. Unfortunately, there are countless ways for that understanding to be quenched, and then the majority of people meekly accept such abominations as "The Winning of the American West," and slavery, and the extermination of Jews.

So, again, do black lives matter? Yes, they do. Why? Because there is a universal, absolute standard that says that they matter, to all of us. To honor and respect and value each person's life is absolutely right; to disrespect and dishonor and devalue any person's life is absolutely wrong. Without that God-given standard, "Black lives matter" is just an opinion, worth no more than any other opinion.

"Black Lives Matter!" Who says so? God's standard says so, and I agree, one hundred per cent. I agree with the statement as a fact, and also with the emotions behind it — that racial profiling, mistreatment, and even killing of non-white human beings is wrong. It's deplorable, and I, too, deplore it. It's detestable, and I, too, detest it. It deserves nothing but condemnation, and I, too, condemn it. We, as a society, *must* do whatever it takes to stop it.

What is not being said, though? Do Hispanic lives matter? Do Jewish lives matter? Do the lives of Native Americans matter? Do the lives of whites living in poverty matter? Do the lives of old people with dementia matter?

Now you might accuse me of changing the subject. None of those groups is being persecuted and harmed in the same way, or to anything close to the same degree — at least not in this country at the present time. Okay, but still, do other lives also matter? Of course they do. Human lives matter! **Every human life MATTERS!**

Then what about the lives of unborn children, black or otherwise? Do they matter?

A few white policemen, out of ignorance, fear, frustration, anger, meanness, and sheer stupidity, have killed some number of black men and also black women during the last, say, fifty years. How many have they killed? Dozens, perhaps. Hundreds, I doubt. But let's say a thousand.

"The state of Florida records a reason for every abortion that occurs within its borders each year. In 2018, there were 70,083 abortions in Florida." Of those, 20% were done for "financial or social" reasons, and over 75% were simply elective, with no reason given. Just over 3% of the reasons related to the physical or mental health of the mother.* There is no reason to think these numbers are not representative.

Some will say that if abortion were not legal, many women would seek illegal abortions, and many of them would die. My response is, couldn't we come up with a better solution for that problem if we really cared enough to try? I know I could.

PLEASE NOTE: Abortion-on-demand has never been a "women's health" issue. It is an issue of promoting promiscuity, with an easy way to avoid responsibility, not for the sake of women's health, but simply because it has become a very, very profitable business for abortionists and those who support their agenda.

From 1970 through 2016, over 46 million abortions were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from their fifty-some reporting areas, which do not comprise the entire country.** Let's say, for the sake of discussion, there have been 50 million abortions in the United States during the last fifty years, though the number is certainly higher than that. Do the lives of 50 million unborn children matter?

So, to the hypocrites who are marching and protesting with their signs that say "**Black Lives Matter!**" and even, incredibly, "**Defund the Police!**" I say, where are your signs saying "**Unborn Children's Lives Matter!**" and "**Defund Planned Parenthood!**"? To be fair, a small number of the protesters are saying those things, and I applaud them for it. But far, far too many of them will say "Black Lives Matter" and then they will support, and defend, and even promote, abortion on demand, proclaiming "women's health" and "reproductive rights."

Fifty million children, killed because of irresponsibility and greed, say those people are hypocrites, and I agree. Human lives matter. **All human lives MATTER.**

* Quoted from https://www.abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/

** From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abortion_statistics_in_the_United_States