



## Day 52

Beloved Peacekeepers,

Today, our practice is the wholeness of community. We look through the lens of equality -- much has been written during the SNV in the news where groups are crying out for equality, equal rights, or simple rights - the right for freedom; the right for food; the right for shelter; the right to practice their Spiritual Beliefs; the right for.....

### **Today's Principle, Today's Practice - EQUALITY**

Have you ever noticed the groups of people who are underrepresented in your activities or lifestyle? Find some way to connect with a person from these groups today.

**Ask yourself:** Is it true, as our (US) Constitution states, "all men are created equal?" In what areas of our society do we fall short of this pledge? Why? In what ways do we honor this pledge? Does being "equal" mean being the same? Do you think students, children, seniors are treated equality? Explain your answers. Where do you think the idea and practice of equality is sourced? Can government impose it?

**Activity** - Check out today's paper -- how many articles are on "equality"? What are your thoughts and feelings (be honest with yourself)? Do a history research -- what do you know about the writers of the Constitution - what were their Religious/Spiritual background? What do you know about Affirmative Action - and how it has changed in recent years? Do you agree with the changes? Rent a movie regarding Civil Right movement -- civil rights in any era, any country -- your thoughts? Have a discussion with your family and friends about equality among you.....

**Journal Activity:** Journal your thoughts....today, use crayons or color pens - live differently and vibrantly!

### **Consider this Quotes on Equality:**

I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream -- a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the ***content of his character***, a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality.- Martin Luther King Jr.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.-Jane Addams

This is no simple reform. It really is a revolution. Sex and race because they are easy and visible differences have been the primary ways of organizing human beings into superior and inferior groups and into the cheap labour in which this system still depends. We are talking about a society in which there will be no roles other than those chosen or those earned. We are really talking about humanism. - Gloria Steinem

Equality consists in the same treatment of similar persons. - Aristotle

Coming generations will learn equality from poverty, and love from woes. - Gibran

As men (women), we are all equal in the presence of death. **Publilius Syrus (~100 BC), Moral Sayings, First Century B.C.**

Men (women) are equal; it is not birth but virtue that makes the difference - Voltaire(1694 - 1778)

"Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around. Things do not change: we change."--- by **Henry David Thoreau**



## Day 52

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or they be black. Let us dedicate to ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: 'to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world.'"--- **by Robert F. Kenney in a speech after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by love - this is an old rule."--- **The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)**

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."---**by Martin Luther King Jr.**

"She said we're must too different, we're from two seperate worlds. And he admitted she was partly right. But in his heart's defense he told her what they had in common was strong enough to bond them for life. He said look behind your own soul and the person that you see just might remind you of me. I laugh, I love, I hope, I try. I hurt, I need, I fear, I cry. And I know you do the same things too. So we're really not that different, me and you."---**from Not That Different by Collin Raye**

Today - lets appreciate and honor our visual differences - honor the culture and experience each of us bring forward - and in honoring our uniqueness, find our common language of equality! As Gandhi said "let us be the change we wish to see in the world" - today that change is knowing all are equal in God's eyes.

Blessings,

SNVOakland  
[www.snvoakland.org](http://www.snvoakland.org)