

Love-Driven Justice: *Part Four*

Light + Life Group Conversation and Study Guide

Based on *Love-Driven Justice* by Bishop Matt Whitehead
in Light + Life Magazine, March 2021



Revisioning Our Future

This is the fourth study guide in a series of four. Be sure to download [part one](#), [part two](#) and [part three](#).

When nothing changes, nothing changes. For those in our society who have distinct advantages over others, same might be just fine. However, same for others means continued poverty, oppression or disadvantage in a number of ways.

In this fourth and final study guide, you'll be asked to engage a great deal in prayer. These times and seasons of prayer are guided and will ask you to focus on particular needs in your own community — wherever you may be.

Begin with prayer.

And now, let's read the final segment of Bishop Matt Whitehead's article.

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. (Proverbs 29:18)

Vision comes from God and unifies the people of God. Perhaps one indicator of disunity is that we have, in many ways, cast off the restraint that prophetic vision gives us. I, along with Bishop Linda and Bishop Keith, am committed to casting God's vision.

Wherever you find yourself on the social or political spectrum we're asking you to consider recasting your theology — realizing that justice is a biblical issue birthed in the heart of God. We call you to recommit

your life to modeling Jesus' Love-Driven ways — knowing that Christ in you is the hope of glory for the poor, oppressed, widow, fatherless, foreigner, and orphan. And finally, we implore you to rethink your understanding of equity. Equitable treatment of all people is God's way of justice, driven by holy love.

Joshua stood before the people of Israel and said, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Friends, what will we choose — collectively as a family of Christ's disciples? As for your Board of Bishops, we are committed to serving the Lord through *Love-Driven Justice*.

Re-read Proverbs 29:18. In all our conversations throughout these four study guides regarding love-driven justice, what role do you believe revelation from God will help us?

How do you see we, God's people, "casting off restraint" when God's vision is not before us?

Through these studies, what has changed about your thinking or understanding regarding justice, equity and love?

A Time of Guided Prayer for Love-Driven Justice

Thinking of the deep needs in your community or region where injustice and inequity is an issue, list below what you believe are the top four needs that need God's intervention and mercy:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Group Prayer:

For each of the needs above, direct your prayers in three directions: 1) That God would come to the aid of the people represented by that need, 2) That God would provide revelation for us to see the need in the way He sees it, and respond with love, mercy, and compassion, and 3) That God would give you and your church a clear and compelling vision that engages your involvement in the solution.



- God Help!
- God, break our hearts!
- God, give us Your vision!



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If you are engaging this exercise in a group, write down any and all insights you receive from the Holy Spirit during your prayers and then, after your time of prayer, share them with one another. Quite often, God will give many people similar or connecting thoughts that reveal His vision for your church.

Close in prayer.