

MARCH 8, 2012

DEAR OUTSIDE WORLD,

CAN ANYONE OUT THERE TELL ME WHERE IS THE LOVE? CAUSE I AM NOT FEELING IT! IT SEEMS LIKE IN TODAYS WORLD LOVE HOLDS NO WIEGHT, AND PEOPLE THINK ONLY OF THEMSELVES. WHAT IS LOVE TO ME AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE? LOVE IS ALL THINGS TO ME. WHAT IS LOVE TO YOU?

NOW I AM NO EXPERT ON LOVE, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE PEOPLE SPEND MORE TIME TRYING TO FIND REASONS NOT TO LOVE THEN JUST LOVING.

I DON'T LOVE YOU BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN.

I DON'T LOVE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR RELIGION.

I DON'T LOVE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

I DON'T LOVE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS.

I DON'T LOVE YOU BECAUSE I DO NOT LOVE MYSELF.

NOW ONE THING I DO KNOW IS THAT ANYTHING WE DO TO SHOW LOVE IS WORTHWHILE; A SMILE, A HUG, A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT, A SMALL ACT OF SACRIFICE. WE GROW BY ACTS OF LOVE. NOW I KNOW NOT ALL PEOPLE ARE LOVABLE, BUT WHEN WE FIND SOMEONE DIFFICULT FOR US TO LOVE, IT IS OFTEN BECAUSE THEY REMIND US OF SOMETHING WITHIN OURSELVES THAT WE DON'T LIKE. I'VE LEARNED THAT WE MUST LOVE OUR ENEMIES, LET GO OF ANGER, HATE, ENVY, BITTERNESS, AND THE REFUSAL TO FORGIVE. YES, I SAID IT...THE REFUSAL TO FORGIVE!!!!

NOW BY NO MEANS AM I LOOKING FOR A PERFECT WORLD, ALTHOUGH A PERFECT WORLD WOULD BE NICE. BUT IF WE JUST TOOK THE TIME TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS WE LOVE OURSELVES, THEN THE WORLD WOULD BE A LOT BETTER OFF THEN IT IS TODAY.

AGAIN, I ASK YOU, WHERE IS THE LOVE? IT STARTS WITH YOU!

I LOVE YOU,

CHRISTOPHER TROTTER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Trotter", written over the printed name.