



The Year of G.R.O.W.T.H
GENEROSITY. RELATIONSHIPS. OUTREACH. WORD
TITHING. HEALING

January 17, 2017

How Should The Church Respond To Bishop Eddie Long's Passing?

Social Media Responses to Bishop Long's Passing:

- * "We all have to face our final day. We all have done things we aren't proud of. Dragging a man after he has died is never cool."
- * "May he rot in hell. Good riddance. Rest in piss."
- * "I'm hoping Bishop Long's death leads to honest discussion in Black churches."
- * I will mourn [Eddie Long's] passing the same way I would mourn the execution of Dylan Roof."
- * "Just received word that Bishop Eddie Long died this morning. Our prayers go up for his family and church."
- * "He deserves the long slow painful death and I hope God blesses this monster with the gift of burning for all eternity."
- * "You can make all the negative comments you want regarding Bishop Long. It does not change the fact WE his members love and we are heartbroken over losing this Man of God (yes, I said, 'Man of God')."

How Should The Church Respond:

1. We must have Christ-like compassion and concern for those who are mourning.
Romans 12:10-19 (Message Bible)
2. We need to investigate the bases of people's anger and rage.
3. We ought to admit that sometimes the church and our leaders are wrong. There are people who come to be inspired by us and instead they are injured by us.

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

4. We ought to understand that men and women can have deep flaws and still be listed among the faithful. **Hebrews 11**(NRSV)
5. Just because a person has done wrong, it should not delete what he or she has done well. “The evil men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.” - Shakespeare **Hebrews 11** (NRSV)
6. We need to be careful not to pass judgment or discuss things we don't have details or facts about. **Ecclesiastes 3:7** (NRSV)
7. People can handle us being human and fallible but they cannot handle us being hypocritical and inconsistent. **Romans 2:3** (NRSV)
8. We must discuss the need for a faith that works in the face of human suffering. **Daniel 3: 17-18** (NRSV)
9. We must discuss God's faithfulness in the face of our finitude and failures. **Luke 23:39-43** (NRSV)