

Racial Reconciliation (Part 1): To My White Brothers & Sisters

“Because of the increase of evil, the love of many will grow cold...”

Matthew 24:12

To watch the callous brutality of George Floyd’s murder, and be forced to confront the evil that is and has been thriving for centuries in our nation, is almost more than some can bear.

Matthew 13:15

For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see...and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.

- My 24 years as a Pastoral Counselor is to help people to **hear, see, and find His healing...**

Acknowledgement & Compassion

“Yes, that’s terrible...But what about...(looting, burning, violence against police...)”

- You’ve Quickly Skipped Over Another’s Pain
 - Why are you frustrated with another sharing their longstanding hurt?
 - Why can’t you:
 - Pause and Acknowledge?
 - Listen and Comfort?
 - Wait and Support?
 - Why must you highlight your complaint, offense, or pain before you compassionately listen and carry the pain of your brother or sister?

Romans 12:15-16

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and **weep with those who weep**. Be of the same mind toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind...**

Galatians 6:2 **Bear one another’s burdens**, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

“Not just black lives matter...All lives matter”

- Focusing on one need or one area of suffering does not exclude or ignore all other areas...

Matthew 18:12-13

What do you think about this? A man has one hundred sheep and one of them is lost. Will he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to look for that one lost sheep? If he finds it, for sure, I tell you, he will have more joy over that one, than over the ninety-nine that were not lost.

No More Assumption & Stereotype

*“Yes, that’s terrible...But **they** shouldn’t be looting, burning, violence against police.”*

- Are you associating the Black Community with looting, burning, violence against police?

- Did you know in Minneapolis, after George Floyd's murder, 80% of those participating in looting, violence, and civil unrest were white – many associated with white supremacy groups not even from the city?
- Did you assume “they” were black people? The black community?
- Did you know that Terrence Floyd publicly rebuked the looters and violent riots asking for peace, and asking for them to stop destroying his community?
- The vast majority of the Black community denounces all looting, burning, violence, the murder of police officers and others...

Titus 1:10-13

For there are many rebellious people who engage in **useless talk and deceive others...they must be silenced** because **they are turning whole families away from the truth...one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, “The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons.” Reprimand them sternly...**

The Silence of Friends

In my June 1st letter to you I wrote:

*We have dear brothers and sisters in our Life Together community and beyond that are carrying levels of profound sorrow, anger, and frustration that many among us have never experienced or even understand. It is a deep loneliness to be surrounded by your spiritual family, and yet bear the weight of despair alone. **The silence of a friend adds more to that burden than the weight of an enemy's blow ever could.***

As your pastor, I would ask each of you to join me in the following:

- *Pray earnestly for your brothers and sisters in the black community;*
- *Ask the Lord to humble your heart, that you would desire that He give you His love, empathy, and sensitivity in a way that you are able to see their hurt through their eyes;*
- *Seek ways to come alongside your brothers and sisters by reaching out to them in support and gently asking them how you can help them shoulder this enduring burden of suffering.*

Some of you asked, what did I mean by “*The silence of a friend...*” – **Take the Risk Anyway!**

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; **ensure justice** for those being crushed. Yes, **Speak up** for the poor and helpless, and **see that they get justice.**

Psalm 82:3 **Give justice** to the weak and the fatherless; **maintain the right** of the afflicted...

Jeremiah 22:3

Be fair-minded and just. **Do** what is right! **Help** those who have been robbed; **rescue** them from their oppressors. **Quit** your evil deeds...**Stop** murdering the innocent!

Truth & Reconciliation are Sequential

Youtube: “**Bryan Stevenson: How We Arrived Here**”

**Don't grow weary in doing what is good.
At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.**

Galatians 6:9