

COME BACK TO GOD

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Ephesians 2:14-16

Racism... Racial Injustice... Senseless Violence. God, what steps shall we take?

With the events that unfolded this past week; the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing protests that have taken place around the country have only served to highlight the fact that racism is alive and well within the United States. But racism and the racial divide is not a new problem, it's not even an old problem, it's an ancient problem. When sin entered into the world, into the human heart, it not only changed our relationship with God, but it also changed our relationship with one another. Thankfully, the gospel of Jesus provides a path towards reconciliation, restoration, and redemption.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. How have the events of the past week, and few months, specifically the senseless deaths of *George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor* and the protests taking place across our country make you feel? What emotions have surfaced within you? What do your 'emotions' reveal about what's going on in your heart?
2. How do we pray 'Come Lord Jesus...' (**Revelation 22:20**) and long for the realities of heaven while remaining committed to the mission and ministry of reconciliation?
3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**. The first and most important 'reconciliation' took place between God and man. When God reconciled man back into relationship with Himself, what were the results? How does being reconciled to God change who we are and how we live?
4. Read **Ephesians 2:14-16**. Jesus not only reconciled us to God, but His life, death and resurrection reconciled us to one another. What impact should the gospel have on ALL of our relationships? How does what Jesus accomplished forever change how we view people, specifically those that are different than you?
5. In Sunday's message, Michael shared four specific steps we can take towards reconciliation with God and others:
 - i. Step I – 'Come back to God.' Have you done this... have you been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus? If not, what questions do you have? Not sure who to talk to? Fill out this ["Next Steps"](#) form so that someone from GENESIS can reach out to you.

- ii. Step II – Ask God these questions: ‘Is there anything in me that is not consistent with the new life you’ve now given me? Are there any prejudices, preferences, biases or racism (whether implicit or explicit) that exists within my heart?’ If yes – what will repentance look like for you?
- iii. Step III – Remember who you are: an ambassador of Jesus. Moving forward, what will it look like for you to represent Jesus in ALL you do and say and write (i.e.: on social media)? If we fail to represent Jesus for who He is, what impact will that begin to have on the world around us?
- iv. Step IV – PRAY! Please spend time praying that people would be reconciled to God and to one another.

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED...

“Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” Revelation 21:3-4 (NLT)

“Nothing evil will be allowed to enter...” Revelation 21:27 (NLT)

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NLT)

SERMON ONLINE...

<http://www.genesisjourney.com/sermon/come-back-to-god/>