

From the leadership of CampusView Church,

From the very beginning, sin has served as the source of injustice, intolerance, prejudice and hate. This is not a new battle- in fact; the Bible is full of God expressing his desire for justice not simply in Heaven- but also in the here and now on Earth. The killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd & Breonna Taylor stand out as examples of the racism and injustice still plaguing our country. Our emotions are running high and our country is gripped with fear and anger. With this in mind, we are reminded that the gospel is clear that as brothers and sisters we mourn with one another, and that in our empathy we feel each other's pain as if it were our own.

Some of us are feeling this anger, hurt and fear and understandably so. And while only God has control over the state of the world- we believe that true justice, support and gospel love should be experienced within the body of Christ. We also believe that the truest way to overcome all that is transpiring is to spread the message of Jesus. A message that breaks down all barriers between people and has the only power to overcome the sin that drives injustice. We also believe the church needs to be a place where we can speak honestly to one another without fear of being ignored or misunderstood. We must all strive to do our part to create an atmosphere of love and understanding.

Simply because of the color of their skin, black men and women in America are at a higher risk of injustice to the point of murder. In Isaiah 1:7 the Lord has this to say "Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." It can be hard to accept that racism still exists hundreds of years since slavery was abolished in America, and for some of us it may be easier to close our eyes to that painful truth. But as a part of the body of Christ we all have a responsibility in this- and for some of us- simply becoming aware of the harsh realities are the first step.

It is a critical part of the message of Jesus that we would be in the trenches together, experiencing each other's hurt but not getting pulled into a cycle of vengeance and sinful anger. God cares about justice- he is often referred to as a just God. But our path to justice is different than the world's path. By spreading the gospel, by spreading his message of self-sacrifice, selfless love, forgiveness and hope we wage our battle against sin and injustice.

We ask that you would not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the leadership team and within the church if you need to talk about how you are feeling about the recent wave of racial tension and fear that is gripping our nation. We believe these killings were wrong and unjust and that God wishes us to battle that injustice by spreading the good news of Jesus and taking a stand against racism.

Let us all be united in mind and heart, sharing in each other's suffering and loving all people, both friends and enemies.

~ CampusView Leadership Group