



RESONATE

STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE

JUNE 2020

The black community in America is facing a crisis. Although much progress has been made since the Civil War and the shameful days of slavery, systemic racism against black men and women still exists in 2020. We acknowledge this and assert our belief that the Bible condemns this systemic racism as evil. The Church (universal and local) has a responsibility to be an agent of God's grace and to do our part in fulfilling God's plan of bringing wholeness and restoration to our world. With this in mind, we exhort believers to:

- **Pray** - First and foremost, we must pray for people's hearts everywhere to be transformed by the gospel of grace. Heart transformation is the ultimate solution to prejudice and racism.
- **Commiserate** - Believers of all ethnicities must recognize that their black brothers and sisters are hurting in an acute way right now. We are called to weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn.
- **Learn** - Believers of all ethnicities need to make the effort to understand what the black community has faced in the past and is facing now. This requires humility and a teachable spirit.
- **Act** - Believers are ambassadors for Christ. As such, we must boldly proclaim the gospel, confident that this life-changing news is the most powerful weapon against racism. In addition, believers should prayerfully engage in the political process, working for positive change.

Our position is based on the following scriptural principles:

1. **Every person of every race is created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:7)**
 - Every person deserves dignity and respect.
 - Every person is valuable to God.
 - Each person's ethnicity is an expression of God's image and his creative power.

2. **Every person of every race is, by birth and action, a sinner deserving of God's wrath and in need of salvation. (Romans 3:23)**
 - Race makes a person neither more nor less sinful.
 - No race is more or less deserving of God's wrath.
 - Given that all are under sin, people of a given race cannot possibly be considered superior to or inferior to people of any other given race.
 - Prejudice is a sin common to man. (1 Samuel 16:7)

3. **God's plan of salvation excludes no one based on race. (John 3:16)**
 - God's plan of salvation includes the saving of individuals.
 - God's plan of salvation includes the redemption and healing of society and culture. (Romans 8:20-22)

4. **Jesus builds his church with people of every race. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Acts 10:28)**
 - The Church is a means of God's common grace which he extends to all for human flourishing.
 - Believers are called to be one with believers of different cultures. (Ephesians 2:14-16)
 - The Church is called to impact society (salt and light - Matthew 5:13-14). Specifically, the Church is called to be anti-racist.
 - Jesus modeled how to be anti-racist in John 4 when he spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well. Disregarding the racism of his own disciples, he simply loved her and ministered to her as she needed. The Church is called to do the same - minister to those in need regardless of who it offends.
 - Jesus commanded his Church to be anti-racist in the Great Commission. The primary expression of anti-racism must be the declaration of the gospel to all the world and the making of disciples. Teaching those disciples to obey all that Jesus commanded includes teaching them to obey the great commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

5. **Eternity will be filled with people of every race. (Revelation 7:9)**
 - A person's race is eternal and will continue to be an essential part of who a person is throughout eternity.
 - A person's racial identity is a beautiful and integral part of a person's worship of God.