There are moments when silence is harmful. At New Beginnings, we hold the Bible as the absolute authority. I have often said Scripture stands above all we think and feel. The Scriptures inform how we act. Where the Bible speaks, so should we.

There is much going on in the United States about race and protests and violence. I hope you will allow the following to help you frame what we, as followers of Christ, should believe, think, and do about racism. Racism is a sin that roots itself in many hearts. It has no place in the heart of a believer in Christ.

First, racism is the judgment of one person that he or she is better than another based on race. What does the Bible say?

Acts 17:24-27 says, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”

We find in this one passage (and there are many more), that God Almighty created all people no matter their color or race and has spread them out over the face of the Earth. He did that on purpose. God is near to each person He created and desires that every person, no matter their color, come to know His Son Jesus Christ. Notice the words of Holy Scriptures: “all men” and “every nation.”

There are many other passages as well that inform us on this issue. Here are a few:

John 7:24 “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

Romans 2:11 “For God does not show favoritism.”

James 2:8-9 “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

All of these passages together (along with others) paint a perspective for us that judgments, divisions, and favor for one race above another is opposite of God’s will and design. We must recognize this type of racial judgment in ourselves and root it out. We must confess such favoritism as sin. We must not lie to ourselves because “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth” (1 John 1:6).

Second, racism is rooted in hatred for another person based on race. What does the Bible say about hatred? This is extremely important as we understand racism and its place in our country and in our own lives. Here are a few Scriptures that inform us on this issue:

Leviticus 19:17 “Do not hate your brother in your heart.”

Deuteronomy 19:11-13 “But if a man hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him, assaults and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities, the elders of his town shall send for him, bring him back from the city, and hand him over to the avenger of blood to die. Show him no pity. You must purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, so that it may go well with you.”

Zechariah 8:16-17 “Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.”
Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (repeated in Mark 12 and Luke 10).

Romans 13:9-10 “The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (repeated in Galatians 5:14 and James 2:8).

1 John 2:9 “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.”

1 John 4:20 “If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”

All of these passages together (along with others) paint a perspective for us that hatred is an emotion, a choice, and/or an action that is opposite of God’s will and design. We must recognize this type of racial hatred in ourselves and root it out. We must confess hatred as sin. We must not lie to ourselves because “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth” (1 John 1:6).

What does this have to do with New Beginnings Christian Church? Like the Kingdom of God, NBCC has people of every color, race, economic background, education level, political party, and mental competence, but we are primarily a congregation with Caucasian members. We should not and cannot put our head in the sand and ignore racial issues as our nation is dealing with them. NBCC is a place for all people no matter their race to find Jesus Christ.

What are we supposed to do as believers in Christ in the midst of a country that has dealt with (still dealing with) racial issues? I believe there are three things that you and I can do as believers in Christ that are important as we confront or are confronted with racism.

#1 Believe and speak correct beliefs. The Bible is not unclear about favoritism and hatred. We must believe and speak what the Bible shares with us about those who are different around us. This starts first within ourselves that we have correct beliefs and attitudes. This continues by us speaking, posting, or writing correct Godly perspectives whenever possible. We should not be afraid to stand up and speak about what is righteous, correct, and Godly.

#2 Pray. There is much to pray about on this issue. We must pray that racial attitudes and beliefs are not a part of our heart. We must pray that racial attitudes and beliefs are not a part of our church family. We must pray that others who deal with racial beliefs would wake up and understand the Truth of God’s Word. We must pray that the Bible and Christianity is not twisted wrongly to help support sin. We must pray for wisdom and healing. We must be a people who pray for our nation and race relations.

#3 Love well. Love the people in your pew. Love the people you worship with each Sunday. Love the people in your neighborhood, at work, or at school. Love the people you encounter each day. We need to love like Christ because we are living in a world that is aching for it. Love like you have the answer to the hurts of racism.

I conclude with the Apostle Paul’s words from Philippians 3:15, “All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”

Peace.

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