

Helping people find and follow Jesus Christ is the mission of Fellowship Bible Church. We truly believe each person is priceless, eternal and created in the image of God. Regardless of the color of their skin, income, background, or behaviors, everyone is worthy of God-given dignity and respect. We believe this because God has received us as sinners and saved us by His grace.

The news of another unjust killing of a black American deeply grieves us. The awful manifestations of racism in America have been evident in recent weeks with the unjust deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. Now, violence begets more violence wounding our cities and further fracturing us.

This happens at the same time we are navigating now over 100,000 deaths from the pandemic of COVID-19. This number of priceless, eternal people now makes it the fifth most deadly event in U.S. history. It has especially affected vulnerable people like the elderly and communities of color.

As we navigate these traumatic events, we are not without hope. We follow Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, who calls us and empowers us through His Spirit to love each other and our neighbors. We suggest three biblical responses to our current realities:

**#1: Pray to our Father in heaven, “for the word of the Lord is upright and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.” Psalm 33:4-5**

We believe the most important thing we can do is pray. Take time daily to seek and trust the Lord with the realities of our country and world. Seek His wisdom and rest in His righteousness and justice through Christ. Ask Him to give you love for your neighbor. Plead with Him to heal our land. Commit your will and way to Him.

**#2: “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.” Romans 15:2**

We call on our church family to express kindness and compassion to our African American brothers and sisters during this traumatic time. Take time to listen, learn, and love them. Be sensitive and thoughtful of the posts you make on social media, seeking to express understanding and kindness rather than inciting emotion.

**#3: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” Romans 13:1**

The profession of law enforcement is established by God and to be respected by all followers of Jesus. As we thank God for the law officers in our community and across our country who have vowed to protect and serve with dignity and respect, we are deeply concerned when some officers misuse their authority and bring unnecessary harm to the people they are commissioned to protect. We call on and pray for all law enforcement officials in our church family to reflect the example of Christ, upholding dignity and compassion for all people in the exercise of their duties.

We also pray for our local, state, and national leaders as they seek to establish more equitable justice and call on them to act quickly and diligently to ensure that these situations are brought to an end. We also pray for increased tensions to be addressed through the way suspects are treated, giving full opportunity for the due process of the law.

May God use these challenges in each of our lives as a defining moment to deepen His love in us, grow us in giving dignity, and grow us in humility, in order to care for the people who are scared and suffering around us.

It is our hope and prayer that God will use each of us to be a people who advance the gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of racism to rewrite our story – bringing good news, healing, and the goodness of God to all people.

With Confidence in Christ,  
The Elder Team