

Statement on the death of George Floyd and the aftermath

Our hearts ache as we reflect on the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. We are also grieved because of the other innocent lives that have been lost and because of the many people who have been injured in the aftermath of the Minneapolis tragedy. Added to that, we are saddened by the widespread destruction and theft of property and businesses.

As Christians, we mourn the loss of any human life, especially when a person's time of grace, given by God, is cut short. We understand that when injustice or crime occurs, society rightly calls for the guilty to be punished and for efforts to prevent such things from happening again. We support the right of citizens, guaranteed by the United States Constitution, to protest peacefully the action or inaction of their government and to use lawful means to correct injustice. But we also recognize that when people break the law, it is the God-given responsibility of the government to protect the life, property, and safety of all citizens.

And we pray. We pray that God would bring comfort and healing to all who have been affected by these events. We pray that God would heal our nation and restore peace to our cities and towns. We ask God to open the eyes of those who mistakenly believe that they can right one wrong by committing another. We plead with God to give wisdom and courage to those who are entrusted with positions of leadership on the local, state, and national level. We ask God's forgiveness for our own lack of love and compassion for our neighbors and for taking for granted the peace and freedom that God has provided to us. We ask God to confirm in us the conviction that racism in any form is contrary to the Christian faith and inconsistent with the love that God expects us to have for all. We pray for a government and for institutions that strive to see to it that all people are treated with equality and justice.

We look to God to bless our land with justice and peace. Only he can do that. On our part, our responsibility as Christians is to speak the truth of God's Word in love. Our mission as God's church on earth is to proclaim God's call to repentance and to share the saving and powerful message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "We preach Christ crucified!" (1 Corinthians 1:23) It's that message alone that can lead people to know the true peace and security of sins forgiven and guilt removed. It's that message alone that can create hearts of faith that respond to God's grace with love and compassion. It's that message that alone can move people, no matter what their vocation, to express their faith as Christians by living in a way that serves God and benefits the people around them.



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