

WHY I BELIEVE RACIAL JUSTICE MATTERS

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I believe that God lovingly created all of us in His image, that God is just and merciful, and that Jesus came to reconcile us to God and in doing so, to reconcile us to each other. Jesus says in Luke 10:27 that the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourself. Loving God is a call to worship and loving our neighbor is a call for compassion.

I believe that we live in a fallen world where systemic racism is real and is perpetrated through various structures and institutions as it has been throughout centuries. Systemic racism permeates most if not all aspects of our society, egregiously impacts people of color, and is antithetical to God's sense of justice. Throughout the Bible, we read how God hates injustice and defends the oppressed.

I believe that as Christians, we have the opportunity to show God's love and mercy to those impacted by racial injustice. As God's people, we can join His master plan to bring reconciliation and justice to the world.

I believe that it is not enough to merely say racial injustice is wrong. We need to be antiracist, which is a life-long journey to undo racially biased thoughts and attitudes, to gain new knowledge and perspective, and to be instrumental in participating in solutions rather than remaining part of the problem. Antiracism is love and justice in action. The journey of antiracism changes us into the people God would have us to be, motivated by love of God and neighbor, to live out His justice in our spheres of influence, for His glory, for our good, and for the good of our neighbor.

As I begin my own journey of antiracism, I invite you to join me. Together, we can make a difference in our churches, in our society, and in the lives of our siblings of color. Together we can awaken from our complacency and complicity to offer the hope of Jesus to a hurting world. Together, we can be courageous, to speak out, to stand on the side of our just God, and to stand up for what is right, true, and just. Justice matters.