



Dear Trinity Church Family:

In light of the biblical call to both righteousness and justice, the elders believe that the church should be a key agent for justice in society. Structural inequities remain in our society and racial divides remain in the church. As the Lord enables us, we will work for unity in the church. In our society, we will identify injustice and work to change it.

One step in doing this was the elder board's decision to become part of a diverse coalition of Bible believing churches and organizations that have endorsed a statement on Biblical Justice and Race that can be found at: www.prayerandactioncoalition.org. In so doing we are not endorsing every position of every other member of the coalition, but we are standing with fellow believers in recognizing injustice and advocating for reform. This is not a financial commitment but a desire to endorse a non-partisan coalition that includes organizations like the American Bible Society, Prison Fellowship and the National Association of Evangelicals to pray and work for policies that reflect the role of faith in constructing both a righteous and just society.

Because the coalition was launched last Wednesday, we posted on the church Facebook page about the unique role of this organization in trying to bring Black and White churches and ministries together in this way. We also included a link to this letter that we are now sharing through an e-blast as well so that everyone will be aware of our thinking.

Some reading this will undoubtedly wonder "Why are the elders doing this? Why not just keep quiet?" Those questions were discussed at length by the elders as well. The history of the white evangelical church on these issues has been, for the most part, one of silence. We believe that must change. The famous Edmund Burke quotation ("All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing") certainly came to our minds, but the innumerable Bible passages telling us to seek and do justice were unavoidable and more instructive. (Isaiah 59:15-16; Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18).

In advocating for justice, we are not endorsing or condoning acts of violence and property destruction that are plaguing many American cities under the guise of protests nor the organizations (whether left or right) that endorse and promote violence and lawlessness. Scripture makes it plain that we should live at peace with one another (Romans 12: 18) and love our neighbors by doing unto them as we would have them do to us. Moreover, in our advocacy for reform of the police and justice system we do not

support "defunding" or "abolishing" the police. In fact, we respect and support our police, but reforms are needed and anyone who violates the public trust must be held accountable just as every other lawbreaker must be held accountable.

Lastly, we want to address three emotionally powerful words: Black Lives Matter. We believe there are actually three aspects to those three words. They are a slogan, a movement, and an organization. As a slogan we have no reservation about agreeing with it. Black lives do matter. And adding the phrase "all lives matter" is seen as an implicit rejection of the intent behind the statement that black lives matter. That intent is to say that too often in our country's history, Black Americans have been treated as if their lives did NOT matter. As a church, we want to say that they most certainly do. We have no issue with the movement to the extent that it brings attention to the need for reform in many areas of our culture—including criminal justice, education, and economic opportunities. But we do not support the Black Lives Matter, Inc. organization. It was founded by three self-avowed Marxists among whose goals are the destruction of America and Israel and the disruption of the nuclear family. Their methods for accomplishing their goals are mob psychology, violence, and anarchy. Needless to say, this is not a Christian organization. The United States certainly has its flaws, but it is still a force for good in the world and a place where Christians continue to be free to pursue God's will and the Great Commission. Our country, like our justice system, needs to be improved but not destroyed.

The elders have no doubt that there will be those in our congregation who disagree with the positions we have taken or even that we have taken a position on these things at all. To those we ask for grace and understanding. After much deliberation and prayer, we believed it to be necessary. We regularly pray for God's wisdom as we lead His church and we pray for His forgiveness when we err.

Yours in Him,

The Trinity Elder Board