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A Christian View of Black Lives Matter  
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Introduction – Black Lives Matter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman after he shot and killed 17 year old Trayvon Martin. The organization gained widespread attention in 2014 when Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed 18 year old Mike Brown.

Quickly becoming a hashtag, BLM now has wide-ranging support throughout the entertainment, political, educational, and local government realms.

The recent death of George Floyd under the knee of white police officer Derek Chauvin coupled with the fatal shooting of Walter Scott and Rayshard Brooks, both by white police officers, given the circumstances surrounding these instances, it is understandable why the Black community feels outrage and hurt. It is also understandable how given the numerous cases of the over use of force, these individual cases can easily be reasoned as a pattern. The narrative of systemic racism is reinforced when these tragic events just keep happening.

So if Black Lives Matter is simply a unified call and demand to stop using needless, fatal force and to hold renegade police officers and rogue vigilantes accountable, then we as believers could stand with that movement. As we read in Isaiah and James, we are to seek justice and correct oppression.

BTW, the officer who held his knee on George Floyd's neck long after he had passed out and the officers who needlessly shot and killed Walter Scott and Rayshard Brooks have all been charged with murder. Justice is being served. The message being sent is clear, if you enforce the law, you are not above the law. Still the question lingers, if there were no videos, would the outcome have been different?

The problem with the Black Lives Matter movement is that it is not solely a push to end police and vigilante violence directed at black people. That's how it gains its support, but that is not its entire agenda. The rest of the movement's stated goals are in direct conflict with Scripture.

- I. As believers we can say this much: The Statement is True and therefore we Affirm It.
  - a. The statement, taken by itself and standing alone, is absolutely true. Black lives matter. Yes, and I know that blue lives matter. Absolutely. All lives matter. Absolutely. But at the same time, there is nothing wrong with singling out a specific group when you are seeking to address and correct injustices that are occurring with that group. Ill. If you watched the 8 minute video of George Floyd's death under arrest, you can say without any qualification "Black Lives Matter."
  - b. We as believers can and should wholeheartedly affirm the sentence Black lives matter. Here's why.
    - i. Genesis 1:27 – So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Every single black man, woman, and child have been created by God, in His image, to reflect His glory. They, along with every other human being, have intrinsic value, worth, and dignity. As we studied Wed night from Psalm 139:14, they are made by God.
    - ii. Rev 5:9-10 – Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth. Not only has God created black lives; He sent His Son to die for black lives to save them eternally. He has created them, and He has saved them.
      1. Again, the gospel is the answer to racism, and the gospel is the answer for racial reconciliation. It happens only through the gospel because the problem is sin and only the gospel transforms the sinner into a saint. In glory there will be no racism and there will be harmony and unity between diverse peoples and ethnicities like we have never seen. So, yes, on this earth, the church is to work towards that end through the preaching and living of the gospel of Christ!
  - c. Black Lives Matter because black lives matter to God!

- d. The problem for us as believers though is that the sentence black lives matter is no longer only a sentence, and it is not a singular issue of addressing abuse of authority. It is a movement that is deeply, biblically flawed in its purpose, vision, and agenda.
- II. The Movement is Anti-Christian; therefore we as believers must Avoid It
- a. For the past two Sunday evenings we have been evaluating the ideology of critical theory with Scripture. Critical Theory is a call for a moral and cultural revolution that will totally transform the entire nation. The oppressed groups that must be liberated by tearing down all institutions of oppression are non-white, female, homosexual, transgender, etc.
    - i. Critical Theory fails to understand or acknowledge the biblical doctrine of original sin. Therefore, it fails to understand the biblical solution of salvation.
    - ii. The Black Lives Matter movement is founded on and operates under the guidelines and teachings of critical theory.
  - b. Statements from BLM website:
    - i. What We Believe
    - ii. Call
      - 1. End systemic racism – the whole system
      - 2. A national defunding of police – 5 year plan
      - 3. Demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure black people not only survive, but thrive – redistribution of wealth, socialism, Brooklyn violence against Jewish people
      - 4. Our fight for liberty, justice, and freedom continues. Together, we can – and will – transform. This is the revolution. Change is coming. – Marxist language
    - iii. NY BLM president stated: If this country doesn't give us what we want, then we will burn down this system and replace it.
  - c. The BLM movement is far removed from the Civil Rights movement of the 60s. The Civil Rights Movement was headed by mostly pastors and upheld biblical principles. BLM is founded by activists who have no tolerance for orthodox, Christian principles regarding family, sexuality, gender, individual responsibility, and the call to reach the heart.

- d. Martin Luther King said in 1967, “Let us be dissatisfied until the day when nobody will shout, ‘White power!’, when nobody will shout, ‘Black power!’, but everybody will talk about God’s power and human power.”
- e. BLM is in direct opposition to the heart of the Civil Rights movement and more importantly, to Scripture.

Conclusion – To my black brothers and sisters in Christ: Whenever and wherever injustice occurs against black people or whenever or wherever racism raises its ugly head, we will stand with you to seek justice and correct oppression. We will stand for truth. We will seek to win our neighbors with the gospel, for it is only the gospel that ultimately changes people and thus changes the culture and corrects the system. But please don’t compromise Christian conviction and biblical truth in this fight. God will bring justice on every front and on every count. If we fail to distinguish between actual injustice and individual sin, we will lose the gospel, our only hope.

To my white brothers and sisters in Christ: We have been guilty at times by not speaking up, by trying our best to justify unjustifiable behavior, we have been too slow to demand truth, we have been too neglectful in reaching out, we have been too proud to walk in our neighbor’s shoes. It’s past time to speak, to serve, to love, to befriend. God created all people. Christ died to save all peoples.

Wherever we find a sliver or an ounce of racism or bigotry in our hearts, we will repent. We will not apologize for being white. God made us white, for His glory. But we will not live as though being white is our value and worth. Our identity is Christ. Our worth and value is in our Creator. We are not about this or that race, we are about the gospel and the Word and salvation and life.

God made red and yellow and black and brown, for His glory. We will love our neighbor. We will do so by speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves, standing with those who need justice, but more importantly, we will love our neighbor by living the gospel and speaking the gospel and lovingly sharing the truth of Scripture. Heaven looks like all peoples before the throne. We will work and labor and pray and deny and pick up our cross to see more of heaven here on earth.

To my black and white brothers and sisters in Christ. We will not take part in protests built on lies because we hold to truth. We will not support movements at odds with Scripture that promise freedom while leading people to eternal chains. We will not riot and destroy property and loot and call for revolution as if the ends justifies the means. But we will be peacemakers and agents of mercy. But we will love one another unconditionally just as God has loved us. And we will forgive just as God has forgiven us in Christ. And we will proclaim the gospel that not only gives life in the here and now, but life everlasting and full of glory.

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.