

**The Role of the church in this time of
opportunity; COVID-19, tribalism and
political upheaval!
United in Christ!
"One Blood"**

**Overcoming the Divisions in America?
*Acts 17:26 And he made from one man every
nation of mankind to live on all the face of
the earth, having determined allotted periods
and the boundaries of their dwelling place.***

Introduction

In light of this Scripture what are we to make of all
the division?

How uncomfortable are we willing to be to overcome
racism in Nashville, Arkansas?

**Philippians 2:3-5 (1973 NIV) Do nothing out
of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but, in
humility consider others better than
yourselves, 4 Each of you should look not
only to your own interests but also to the
interests of the others. 5 Your attitude
should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.
Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is
good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and
to walk humbly with your God?**

Video clip, Fred DeBerry

Why are we here? For God's glory
To figure out how to move forward during this time
of manufactured division
Intersectionality-race, oppression of self-identified
groups

We are here to see if God might heal some hurts that
would allow us to go forward together as godly
people

Working together to advance God's Kingdom

I don't understand

How it is growing up and knowing that my
ancestors were slaves

How it was growing up knowing that your grand
father had to use "colored toilets" and drink
from colored water fountains

I don't know how it is to live immersed in a
culture in which you don't understand the
language

Living in a country in which you live under the
perceived threat of deportation

How the past can have so much influence on
today

I am so sorry that you people have to experience
this and I am working hard to understand

Here is what I know, we are "one blood"

***Revelation 7:9 (NLT) After this I saw a vast crowd, too
great to count, from every nation and tribe and people
and language, standing in front of the throne and
before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes
and held palm branches in their hands.***

I am so sorry some of our founding fathers were
slave owners

I am so sorry it took some 80 years to begin to
eradicate the terrible institution of slavery

But should we not celebrate that these men gave us
a constitution that led to freedom for slaves

Did you hear Mr. Deberry refer to "claiming" what
our constitution granted all men
Can we not celebrate that it was whites who voted to
allow blacks to vote

I am so sorry that some of your grandparents had to
use separate bathrooms

I am so sorry some cops or lost and evil

I am so sorry that prejudice and hatred amongst and
between people groups is alive and well

I am so sorry but I know wiping out hatred and
prejudice is not going to happen in a culture that
moves further and further away from God and His I
Word

I want to be a part of overcoming best we can the
division but I will not embrace ungodliness to do so
What lines of separation are still drawn?

Church on Sunday morning, walls of fellowship

In every pocket of society there is still

segregation: neighborhoods, businesses, schools

What lines are coming down?

Neighborhoods, White flight has subsided, red

lining is being addressed, school choice has

helped, some churches look like their

demographics

What can we do?

**Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is
good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and
to walk humbly with your God?**

**James 2:1-4 NIV My brothers and sisters,
believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ
must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man
comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring
and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old**

clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Esteeming others more important than ourselves
Saved and radically converted lives, changed lives,
and a changed nation will remove the lines of
segregation

How uncomfortable am I willing to be to get there?
How uncomfortable are you and I willing to be with
each other to get there?

It will take the grace of God to get us out of our
comfort zones that we might live for God's glory and
might work together to advance His Kingdom

It will take the white evangelical church saying we
are not there yet and we could have done more

It will take the black evangelical church saying we
are not there yet but we are making progress and we
want to be a part of making further progress and
being committed to not be a part of this division
How comfortable can we be in admitting our own
faults and getting past blaming others for where we
are, we all have some Adam and Eve in us

First, I would propose that we do away with
using the term "race" when discussing the
different groups of people in the world

Revelation 7:9 (NLT) After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and

before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

Second, we need to be reprogrammed to know that we are sinful and likely to be sinful

Mark 7:20-23 NIV He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. 21 For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

We could include, greed, pride, prejudice

We must judge people by the fruit of the spirit and not the pigmentation of their skin

We need to expect lost people to act like lost people

We need to expect saved people to act like saved people

It's time to take action

We need to act like Christians

We need to look for and aggressively seek justice

We need to esteem others more important than ourselves

What do I suggest we do as a church?

Continue to work on breaking down the walls

We have a good start, we worship and study and serve together

We need to learn to break bread together from house to house

We must not become a two language nation

We need to dialogue and discuss how
we can we can look for and
aggressively seek justice
We challenge each other in our thinking
and we sit down at the table in prayer
and with our Bibles open to found out
what the Scripture and the Lord would
have us do
Church

Prayer walk

Have representatives from church
in court on Wednesday and
Thursdays

Have dialogue among ourselves
about what we need to do to
overcome our racist past

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

300 TRENTON BOULEVARD
NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS 71852
870-845-4170

Maranatha Baptist Church,

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

This is one of many "one another" Scriptures that speak of the necessity of assembling together. It is time for the assembly of believers to assemble. The virus is here to stay and we will have to learn to deal with it in our lives and in our church.

The gathering of the saints together to worship our risen Lord Jesus Christ is as necessary and beneficial to our soul as food is to our bodies. We meet weekly as instructed by Christ and his Apostles in order that we might worship Him, edify each other and build each other up in the Lord. When a follower of Christ is not nourished on a regular basis, which, in part, comes from worshiping together in the local church "the bride of Christ" then the follower becomes weak and vulnerable.

At MBC we have been meeting for several weeks on Sunday mornings and just last week began

our Wednesday night class again. In an effort to be responsible we have put in place protocols to maintain social distancing. We encourage hand washing and sanitizing as well as maintaining separation. Masks are made available to all and all are free to wear a mask during the service. We have in place all the protocols that you would find at the common places such as grocery stores, gas stations and other large retail businesses.

Some of you we have not seen at church in over 6 months and it is with loving concern that we share this letter with you. We are reaching out to you to ask you to consider joining us this Sunday and Wednesday for our services. Sunday begins at 10:45 and Wednesday at 6:30. With all of what is going on in our country and the world this is no time to be lax in maintaining our spiritual health. In fact, this is a time to carefully be about nurturing our souls.

bruce short

tom byrd

YOUR CALCULATED RISK OF DYING FROM COVID-19

If you are between the ages of 20 and 40 your risk of dying from COVID-19 is the same as your chance of dying from playing football.

If you're between the ages of 15 and 24 you're more likely to be fatally afflicted by falling down the stairs than by COVID-19.

Kids under 15 have more chance of getting hit by lightning than of dying from COVID-19.

Healthy women under 40 ... your odds of dying from COVID-19 ... are about the same as dying from a plane crash.¹

"If you're under the age of 65 the chance of dying of COVID-19 ... is the same risk you face driving on your commute to work." This is how John Ioannidis, M.D., Professor of Medicine of Health Research and Policy and of Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University School of Medicine, presents the insignificant risk posed by the "deadly and novel" virus.

The 6-month manic COVID-19 campaign - driven by Big Pharma's panic for profit, aided and abetted by un-American censorship from Big Tech's Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and a drumbeating mainstream media - has reached the point where if people were told to get into boxcars to be taken to 'Virus Protection Camps', many would rush to get in line.

The turbulence and upheaval engineered by government bureaucrats and blue state potentates will require brisk countermeasures if freedom is to be sustained.

As early as May, this year, retired neurosurgeon Russell Blaylock, M.D., issued a warning about wearing face masks: not only do masks fail to protect the healthy from getting sick, but they also create serious health risks to the wearer - airlines, are you listening? The bottom line, Dr. Blaylock says, is that if you are not sick you should not wear a face mask. He added, "[No credible scientific study has] established a conclusive relationship between mask use and protection against influenza infection [read: COVID-19]."2

You might be thinking, why have we not each and every winter worn masks as protection from the flu?

Linda Johnston, M.D., spells out that "The coronavirus is about 100 nanometers in diameter. Cloth mask 'holes' are 1,000 times larger than a virus. An analogy is used that a mask is like a mosquito getting through a chain link fence. It's actually much worse, it's a mosquito getting through a chain link fence with holes 14 yards in diameter."

Regarding the question what might be going on in America, Steven F. Hotze, M.D., has this to say: "The purpose of masks is to break your will, destroy your individuality, and make you submissive to tyrannical government bureaucrats [Fauci] and Leftists [blue state governors and mayors]. First you lose your identity and then you lose your freedom."3

The medical mantra to make masks matter beyond their measure, mindlessly multiplied by the mass media, has mandated a state of muted maskism, or rather masked

mutism, where assertions are unquestioned and misgivings remain unanswered.

Before attempting to make spiritual application, we go 43 years back to the days before this writer got converted. Would you have known David Lane then, you would have thought, "I cannot imagine anyone in the world less likely to be saved by Christ! It will be near impossible to find someone more irresponsible, more heedless, more ungodly than him."

This once again brings us to Governor Gavin Newsom. Over the past few months we have pointed out the sullied history, irrepressible arrogance, and questionable character of the 52-year-old Newsom, as seemingly closely affiliated with the serpent of Gath in 1 Samuel 17.4 Goliath's strutting encroachment of Israel and blasphemous taunting echo Newsom's malevolent manifesto of declaring CA churches "non-essential," while classifying liquor stores, marijuana distribution centers and abortion clinics as "essential."

Before pagans like Goliath of Gath roamed the earth to oppress and abuse others, earlier leaders and rulers also thrived on the large-scale spreading of fear and panic, which is the trademark of tyrants [Numbers 13:25-33]. Israel cowered before both. Today's blue state governors and mayors are just the latest hectors exploiting agonizing angst and petrifying panic to gain control of the public square.

It would seem that American Christendom has been strategically positioned for an urgently needed wakeup call by the Living God. This is our kairos, our propitious

moment for action. If Christians are to sustain freedom and liberty for their children and grandchildren, a serious change of impact will be required.

Loyalties are now being tested in the present crisis as "serpents" and "giants" stalk America, i.e. in the likes of Gavin Newsom, Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and Fortune 500 Companies, indirectly or directly rooting for looting and setting fire to America's cities.

To those pastors sitting out the battle against grandiose pronouncements demanding a halt to reopening America's churches, we paraphrase from *The Making of a Man of God: Lessons from the Life of David*. For a while it will be possible that you, like David, may be able to soothe or satisfy radically secular elected officials and government bureaucrats by playing your spiritual harp. But the moment you raise your head in opposition to their wanton and unrestrained abuse of power, and despotic misappropriation of authority, they will take aim at you. Or as Alan Redpath expressed it: "You will discover that the place of rejection by others is the place of acceptance by God."⁵

We'll find the answer to wanting to know what to do in Ronald Greer's *If You Know Who You Are, You Will Know What to Do*. He tells of the dark days of Nazi usurpation of Holland with Gestapo everywhere and Jews vanishing. Dutch Christians asked Dutch Reformed theologian, linguist, and missionary Hendrik Kraemer [1888-1965] what they should do.

The missionary responded, "I cannot tell you what to do but I can tell you who you are. If you know who you are, then you will know what to do." He then read to the fearful Christians the words first spoken to the equally fearful Christians in 1 Peter 2:9: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people claimed by God as his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Whereupon the people thanked the missionary, departed, and started the Dutch underground resistance movement.

Neither needing yet another political rally nor a prayer march around the Capitol, what America really needs is a Joel 1:13 call for lamentation and repentance over what we, pastors and churchgoers, have allowed to let happen in a nation "founded for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith."

The appeal will be for mercy. It won't be about who can come up with the loftiest prayer. American Christendom has become flabby and palmy, yet listless spiritually with no influence in the culture. We must begin with reshaping public education and decluttering secular culture. Following admittance of culpability, confession should be immediately wedded to action. This way we will quench the massive fireball heading our way on November 3, 2020.

Yet, let us never forget that those who walk with Christ never lose hope, because we know that "Man's extremity is God's opportunity. But He does not always, nor generally, act immediately, when we are brought low.

No, he 'waits to be gracious' [Isa. 30:18], that our helplessness may be the more fully realized, that His delivering hand may be seen the more clearly, and that His merciful interposition may be the more appreciated." [A.W. Pink, The Life of David]

May the Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ55mDL7dA0

Gideons or Rahabs are rising to stand.

David Lane

American Renewal Project

Protesters inside the self-declared autonomous zone in downtown Seattle booed and heckled members of the African American Community Advisory Council Thursday afternoon as the group told demonstrators they had "hijacked" the message of Black Lives Matter.

The council works to foster relationships between the Seattle Police Department and the community, a necessary liaison, particularly in the climate of mounting tension against police following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"The thing is, you have hijacked this! You have taken the meaning away!" a woman from the council said, addressing demonstrators inside the "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone," (CHAZ)-- a six-block region, which includes a police precinct-- that has been taken over by protesters.

After weeks of protests, Seattle demonstrators successfully ousted police officers from the East Precinct, forcing them to shutter the building and leave, and attempts at negotiating a police presence have been unsuccessful.

"Black lives do matter but there are also black lives that are police lives," a woman from the council said, according to reports by Komo News. "They feel the same way that you do."

The woman was booed and demonstrators grabbed other microphones and began talking over her, the news outlet reported.

AACAC Chair, Victoria Beach lambasted the city's mayor, Jenny Durkan, calling her "cowardly" for opening up the streets "to all of the mayhem," she told the local news outlet.

The precinct's police chief Carmen Best told reporters on Thursday that she was outraged by the events unfolding and said "leaving the precinct was not my decision."

Sources told Fox News Best and Durkan have been at loggerheads over the decision to forfeit the portion of downtown Seattle to protesters, who have posted signs that say "cop-free zone" and "You are now leaving the USA."

Negotiations between protesters and the police have been at a standstill as authorities struggle to identify who is at the helm of the movement inside the autonomous zone.

Police officials attempted to enter the East Precinct on Thursday but were jeered by protesters, who have reportedly set up checkpoints with armed guards to keep law enforcement officials away. Other protesters attempted to escort officers to the precinct, to the dismay of their fellow demonstrators.

Since police have left the area, officers say their response time to incidents in the city have tripled because they are unable to access the area for calls for help.

2