

## *Concerning the Killing of George Floyd*

I am writing with a very heavy heart!

I grew up in the sixties during the Civil Rights Movement where I saw many videos of the manifestation of Racism through police brutality where black folks were beaten, attacked by vicious dogs, water hosed, killed and thrown in jail simply because they were black and wanted to be treated like any other human being.

While viewing the recent video of a white police officer by the name of Derek Chauvin with his knee on the neck of an African American man by the name of George Floyd and hear him say "I can't breathe" and call on his dead mother prior to his death, caused emotions to rise up in me that I was unaware that I had. The emotions of anger, pain and disappointment with an outburst of uncontrollable tears led me to a cry out to God, **How long Lord, How long?**

The sin of Racism is still very much alive in America and is suppressed until it is squeezed out. I strongly encourage and call for an on-going outcry from the Alliance president, superintendents, and every white pastor because it is mostly a white sin problem. The blacks' sin problem to this is one of anger, pain and hate which results in the intention to do harm. The outburst of anger prompted an outcry of protesting, later hijacked by Rioters with intent to destroy property, loot and be violent in the streets.

Most enjoy putting out fires that will stop the rioters, which is only a symptom of the real problem. When ashes are stirred, you realize that fire was burning underneath the ashes. The root problem is the sin of Racism that is hidden or smothered until it is stirred or pressured. We must begin dealing with this in the Church. **The first:** Teach and preach God's Word. **The second:** Rebuke believers when it takes place in your presence, tell them that they are in sin and should repent from the practice of Racism. **Third:** Pray for one another.

I encourage and call on African American pastors to teach, preach and challenge African Americans to forgive white racists, just as Christ forgave us (Eph. 4:32). Encourage them to separate sin from the person; hate the sin, love the person. There was not a Racist bone in Jesus and He had no respect of person.

The world of all ethnicity admits that racism is alive and is protesting and demonstrating that this is wrong by joining African Americans all over the country in nearly every major city. The Church is silent and has always been silent in America with the exception of a few. **It is time for the Church to show the world that we are Christ's disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:34-35)**

From my heart!  
Ron Ballard