



Covenant Life Church

Newsletter # 11

The Sin of Racism

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

Announcements

Update

Beginning on Father's Day, June 21, we will be returning to the church sanctuary for Sunday services only.

The Virginia Governor announced Phase I of the reopening of Virginia beginning on May 29. However, due to the impact of the virus, our host church requested that we continue to limit attendance to 10 people during Phase I of the reopening.

Consequently, beginning June 21 until Phase II begins, we will only have the necessary CLC staff and worship team in the sanctuary to conduct the Sunday service.

We will continue to live stream Sunday services on Facebook. We will also continue to live stream Monday Night Discipleship Class and Friday night Table Talk via Facebook, and our Sunday Prophetic Class on Zoom, until further notice.

To view our services on FACEBOOK, please "Like" us on FACEBOOK at Covenant Life Church. <https://facebook.com/covenantlife4>

Reminders: Church Services and Cancellations:

(a) **Church Services:** Until further notice, all CLC services will occur via Facebook Live, unless otherwise noted. These include:

- Monday Night **Discipleship Class** at 8 PM

- Tuesday **Prayer Tabernacle** at 7:30 PM: The dial in number for the Tuesday night Prayer Tabernacle is: 712-775-7270; access code: 221090.
- Friday Night **Table Talk/School of the Holy Spirit** at 7:30 PM
- Sunday **Prophetic Class** at 1-2 PM via Zoom

May 31, 2020 01:00 PM

Jun 7, 2020 01:00 PM

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255245878?pwd=Mk16bUZhNGFTMU5HVk0vOUJXMjF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85255245878#,,#,3846# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,85255245878#,,#,3846# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878

Password: 3846

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbspzTjVcs>

- Sunday **Church Service** at 2:30 PM

(b) **Conferences:** All conferences for 2020 are cancelled except for the September Deliverance Conference and the Women's Conference on November 13 -14, 2020.

Breeze Database and Giving

BREEZE Church Management System: We are pleased to announce that we are now using a church database management system called "Breeze" that will help members manage their personal information for church. Members now have the opportunity to have a personal church profile that provides name, address, email; allows for members to give online through Breeze so they can track their giving history and provides a church directory.

Ways to Give: You can use **BREEZE** to give or use **PayPal** on the church website or mail in your donation.

- **One-time or Recurring Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can enable one-time giving or recurring donations using the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **Paypal, ACH or Credit Card Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can give using PayPal, ACH or Credit Card at the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
- **TEXT TO GIVE:** You can give by texting the number: **(616) 326-3171**
- **Mail:** You can mail in your donation to: **CLC, P.O. Box 1262, Springfield, VA 22151**

Member Accounts: Pastor Andrea is reaching out to all members to invite you to create your own personal account in Breeze (if you desire) that will enable you to monitor your personal and giving history. Meanwhile, you are invited to give through Breeze as you desire, or use the PayPal GIVE command on the website

We appreciate your faithfulness in attending services through FACEBOOK and your generous donations to the church.

**From the Desk of Apostles Jeff & Dr. Linda
Herbert**

The Sin of Racism

One of essential aspects of the character of God is justice. God is a just God who must always perform justice. When Adam and Eve sinned, justice had to be rendered for all the sins of mankind. But God, who is also a God of love, grace and mercy, came in the form of His Son Jesus Christ to pay the price for us. He not only executed justice by death on the cross, but He paid the price Himself by shedding His own blood for us. Thus, justice was rendered, but so was mercy in that Jesus Christ died for us and redeemed mankind with His own blood. He could have said, "Mankind, you sinned and now you must pay the price

for your own sin.” Instead, He paid the price for us. In John 12:47, Jesus said, “I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.” That is love, grace and mercy!

Throughout the Bible justice is proclaimed by the prophets who assert that the foundation of God’s throne is justice and they make it clear that an unjust society is an affront to God. In Zechariah 7:8-14, the word of the Lord came to the Prophet Zachariah and God said, “Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion toward one another.” Justice is “the establishment or determination of rights according to the rules of law or equity.” [1]As Americans, we like to think that we are a nation that promotes equality and fairness, and yet we do not always see the manifestation of godly justice in our land. The Bible teaches that the god of this world – satan – has blinded the eyes of those who do not believe and he works to entice man into sin (2 Cor 4:4, James 1:4). Thus, satan works through the wicked heart of man to promote sinful injustices and violence based on race, gender, religion, and social and economic status. These sinful injustices in any form is wrong and racism is one such example.

Racism is sin. It has its roots in judgment, hatred and favoritism. Racism is a form of judgment because some people say they are better than others due to race. However, the Bible states in Acts 17:24-27, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” It is important to note in this scripture that God created everyone regardless of race and he spread them out over the earth. Furthermore, He desires that all mankind come into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The root of racism is also hatred. People are prejudice and hate others because of race differences. Satan fuels this hatred and it is demonically induced - but people give place to it. Consequently, we must recognize racial hatred and prejudice is sin and repent. First John 1:6 tells us that, “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.” Below are several scriptures regarding hatred. They reveal that hatred is an emotion and action that is ungodly and has no place in our nation, lives or

in our hearts.

Leviticus 19:17 states, "Do not hate your brother in your heart."

Zechariah 8:16-17, "Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD."

Romans 13:9-10, "The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor.

Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law."

1 John 2:9, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness."

1 John 4:20, "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

Racism also reveals partiality or favoritism. Partiality or favoritism causes a person to make a distinction and favor one person over the other. James 2:1-9 states, "My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all... So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment." (NIV)

In this passage, favoritism means “respector of persons” or to “show partiality.” The Apostle James is talking about the fault of judging other based on the outward appearance or circumstances of a man or woman. God considers partiality sin when we treat someone more or less worthy because they are of a certain race or economic status, etc. Other scriptural references regarding partiality include: Acts 10:34-35, “So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him”(ESV); and Romans 2:11, “For God shows no partiality” (ESV).

The Bible teaches that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be living stones of Christ Jesus and we are all baptized into one body. First Peter 2:4-6 states, “And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” So, as a holy priesthood, what are spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God? The answer is love, mercy and grace extended to all people!

The Bible commands us love one another. Matthew 22:36-40 states, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." And in Romans 13:9-10 it states, “The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Furthermore, we are all God’s children created in his image. Galatians 3:26-29 states, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (NIV). And I Corinthians 12:13 states, “Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit”

(NLT). All of these scriptures make clear we all a holy priesthood and God's children equal in the site of God. God created all of mankind and it was never intended that there should a discrimination for any reason.

But in today's society there are many injustices, including the atrocity of racism and its effect on entire people groups. The god of this world – satan – seeks to kill, steal and destroy. He will use anything he can to destroy people and cause division in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Racism, sexism, and all the other 'isms' are demonically induced tactics to kill, steal and destroy people. The injustices rendered by these sinful activities cause strife, confusion and every evil work in people's lives to bring death and destruction (James 3:16-18).

We Stand With You:

We stand strongly against racism and other sinful discriminations perpetrated against people. We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of George Floyd and other Americans due to racial violence. The 9-minute video clearly showed the shocking, appalling and blatant disregard for human life resulting in the crime of George Floyd's death. We pray that the perpetrators of these atrocities will come to justice and repent for their actions; and we pray for the victims and their families that God will provide comfort and healing to them.

We also pray that as a nation that we will repent and turn to Christ and obey Jesus' command to love all people and learn to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

We encourage you today that despite the injustices in our land, we can rely on the Lord to protect us from wickedness and those who seek to harm us. The Word is clear that if we call upon the name of the Lord, He will hear us. Psalms 91:14-15 states, "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him." (NIV)

Conclusion:

We encourage you to repent today for any racism or other judgments that you may have made against people, now or in the past, and ask forgiveness from the Lord. If you have been guilty of making distinctions due to race, gender or other things, now is the time to

repent, and seek forgiveness from those your harmed and ask the Lord to forgive you. The Bible commands us to make it right with our brother and ask forgiveness from them. God will forgive us as we forgive them.

Prayer of Repentance:

“Father God, I repent for any racism, sexism or other sinful distinctions and actions that I perpetrated against people. Please forgive me for not honoring whom you created in your image and passing judgment and hatred. Please cleanse me from all unrighteousness and help me from this moment forward to honor and love all people as created in your image, and heal any wounds within me that lent themselves to these ungodly actions. Thank you for healing me in accordance with your Word that states, “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed (Is 53:5). In Jesus Name, Amen.”

[1]Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Justice. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved June 10, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/justice>

From the Desk of the Pastors

Restoration

One of the components of the prophetic word for 2020 was “Restoration”. This is the year that God will restore, as stated in Joel 2:25, He will restore the years the swarming locust has eaten. I believe the message translations says it best, Joel 2: 25-27:

*“I’ll make up for the years of the locust,
the great locust devastation—
Locusts savage, locusts deadly,
fierce locusts, locusts of doom,
That great locust invasion*

*I sent your way.
You'll eat your fill of good food.
You'll be full of praises to your God,
The God who has set you back on your heels in wonder.
Never again will my people be despised.
You'll know without question
that I'm in the thick of life with Israel,
That I'm your God, yes, your God,
the one and only real God.
Never again will my people be despised.*

Restoration is the act or process of returning something to its original condition by repairing it or cleaning it. God is restoring His people. For many years in this country and in this world, God's people were made to feel less than, made to feel unworthy, and were stripped of their true identity. This was done through means of systematic racism, discrimination, abuse, and many other forms of injustices. But God, said, this year I will restore, I will begin by tearing down all the lies, the false systems man has put in place to hinder my people. I will up route the fear the enemy planted which brought forth deceit and division. I will remove the layers of anger, hostility, frustration and hopelessness that has been a heavy cloak on my people. That has stifled their ability to move and breath. I will free them from a burden that was never theirs to bare. I will then pour out my love on them, I will wash and cleanse them, and sanctify them with the washing of water by the Word of God. I will then reveal to them their true identity in me. That I have called them to be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, My own special people. My peacemakers, that they shall see Me, in this season. In the midst of this chaos, I charge you to, "be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." *1 Peter 3:8-9*

From the Desk of the Elder

Love is the Answer, Regardless of the Question

How do you make sense of insanity? What happened to George Floyd is insanity and I am heartbroken and bewildered. Not only for Mr. Floyd but for all of us who have experienced unfair treatment, hatred, racism, sexism, and any form of cruelty.

As I was studying the book of Mark Chapter 6, I read the story of the beheading of John the Baptist. The bible says that John the Baptist was put into prison by Herod. John the Baptist told Herod that it was unlawful to marry his brother's wife (Herodias). Because of John's correction, Herodias held a grudge against John the Baptist and sought the opportune time to have him killed.

Mark 6: 21-29 states: *"²¹ Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. ²² And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." ²³ He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom." ²⁴ So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" ²⁵ Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb."*

Can you imagine how Jesus and the disciples of John felt to learn that he was beheaded for no reason? Sometimes, we do not have an answer for why people do cruel things. We cannot understand the minds and motives of people but God's eyes are not closed and He is still on the Throne.

Even when we do not understand, we must forgive one another. We must prayer for the

victims and well as those committing the cruel act. Salvation is free. The bible says in 1 John 4:16 that “¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

Let the weapon of your warfare be the love of God, which abides in you. Love is the answer, regardless of the question.