

What's Next?

Pastor Gilbert Kelly

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Racism – PG definition: Holding any negative opinion, bias, judgement, acumen, against anyone, individually or collectively, that is based on the color of their skin, the culture of their heritage or the language they speak, rather than the “content of their character”.

The Word of God has an even higher standard:

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

John 7:24 (NKJV) Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

Acts 10:34-35 (NKJV) Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation, whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

Acts 17:26 (NKJV) 26 And He has made from one [a]blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

James 2:9 (NKJV) 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

The influence of racism affects every institution in America, including the church.

Leading a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-generational church forward in Christ is a great blessing. But it is also a great challenge. Even more so in a time like this. If we stand firmly on the Word of God, the leading of the Holy Spirit, the message of the Gospel, The love of Jesus, making disciples as Jesus commanded... *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20*

Ephesians 2:19-22 New King James Version (NKJV) 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:12-22 (NKJV) Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 17 As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 18 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.’ 19 “But if you turn away and

New City Church 3355 Old Jonesboro Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 | 320 Dividend Dr., PTC, GA 30269

<https://newcitychurch.net/> | (770) 964-2138

forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, 20 then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 21 “And as for this house, which I have exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and this house?’ 22 Then they will answer, ‘Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.’”

Is the land you “reside in”, the land of the world or the land of His Kingdom? Jesus did not come to **HEAL** the world in the way the world is trying to figure out how to heal itself.

- Jesus came to SAVE the world from the consequence of its sin.
- Jesus came preaching repentance of sin and the kingdom, without partiality.
- And in all we do or say about racism or any sin, that must be the central message and mission of the church. If you are uncomfortable with that, then you are still uncomfortable with Jesus.

If that is not enough, then Jesus is not enough.

- And I say that with love and compassion, because I too struggle with it at times. I fail at times.
- Especially when in pain, shock or grief.
- Especially in times of testing. When He shakes and tests the people in His kingdom. The test is HARD. Uncompromisingly hard.
- As uncompromising as Jesus Words.

Matthew 12:30 (NKJV) He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Mark 8:38 (NKJV) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

So, for NCC What’s Next?

One thing that is true about storms and shaking, they either make trees stronger or blow them down.

I believe this is a season when NCC will grow stronger.

For this purpose:

Ephesians 4:12 To equip the saints for works of ministry.

- With greater skill, greater insight, greater understanding, greater wisdom.

But as always, it starts in the mirror, individually and collectively. And it will take intentional actions and activities.

This is a list of a few that we as a church will start with:

1. By far the most important the action and activity is the action of love.

New City Church 3355 Old Jonesboro Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 | 320 Dividend Dr., PTC, GA 30269

<https://newcitychurch.net/> | (770) 964-2138

Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV) 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Stop passing judgement and putting labels on your fellow believers because their perspective is different than yours. Even if they are clearly wrong. Encourage in truth, exhort in love! And let the Holy Spirit handle the conviction!!!

We all say flawed things at times.
We all have biases at times.
We all say ignorant things at times.
We all miss the mark at times.

Don't bypass the first step.

If your life is going to be pleasing to God, remove the plank in your own eye, before trying to remove the speck in your brothers' eye. Matthew 7:5

Jesus disciples often disagreed.

- Who would be allowed to be the greatest.
- Who would be allowed to be a disciple? Jews only or non-Jews it always came down to Jesus and the greatest commandment and the great commission.

People are perishing and going to Hell, and we are all over social media, fighting each other over who is a racist or not a racist? Calling people to microwave conviction. Let's remember conviction of sin is not what we are called to do. We simply share the Word, share our testimony, share our perspectives, exhort in love, even challenge with the Written Word. The Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit alone brings conviction and repentance. Because only He knows the whole story and whole journey and the whole heart of anyone.

2. Zoom conversations with Pastor Gilbert and Pastor Mona.

- Must have listened to the previous messages

3. Upcoming panel discussion where you will hear the perspectives and voices of more of our leadership.

4. Panel discussions for different teams and areas of the church.

5. Continue doing what NCC has had a very high reputation for doing in this community with even more focus on making disciples in Christ.

- Touching our community in many ways.

6. We are going to reach even deeper into the high schools with PSM.

7. We are going to revamp and refresh our mentoring programs.

New City Church 3355 Old Jonesboro Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 | 320 Dividend Dr., PTC, GA 30269
<https://newcitychurch.net/> | (770) 964-2138

- Toughest part has been participation and support from enough of our parents to both help as well as “encourage” your young ones to be there.
- I was made aware that just last week Passion Students held (another) Zoom discussion with some incredible youth pastors.
- Only one of our young people participated in the Zoom discussion, yet they (teens) sure were on social media outside of the zoom discussion.

8. Invite someone that’s not like you to spend some time together.

- a. Seek to listen more than speak.
- b. Share life story and background
- c. Talk about today’s issues
- d. Refuse to be divided as believers
- e. Pray (not correction, blessings)

9. Mentoring does not need a church program.

- We all get to choose our places and platforms to protest. And for a Christian it should always be by the individual leading of the Holy Spirit, the written Word of God and prayer. And in love. Even love of your enemies.
- And the end goal must always be making disciples.
- If that is not the end goal of your protest, then Christian, you have missed the mark.

I am not new to the protest.

- I know by the leading of the Holy Spirit what my venues and places are today.
- And I am faithful to mine.
- Influencing leaders, pastors and the church to the fullness of righteousness in Christ across racial and cultural boundaries.
- Teaching and preaching The Word of God that addresses all the ills of a sick people in a sick society including the sickness of racism and brutality.
- And Lord willing I will continue to do so.
- When I am finished, and I will finish this fight.

My desire is for it to be said of me by people that really know me, he loved Jesus and he was consistent in that. But, even more so, I want it to be said of me by my Lord and Savior Redeemer, well done my good and faithful servant.

Good works – YES

Good works towards what end?

Just to end racism and police brutality.

That’s good work.

The recent videos are living nightmares.
They are a monstrous reality.

The monstrous reality of broken cities, a broken nation.

New City Church 3355 Old Jonesboro Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 | 320 Dividend Dr., PTC, GA 30269

<https://newcitychurch.net/> | (770) 964-2138

The monstrous reality of a Spirit of Death.

As followers of Jesus we must protest it.

Just as John the Baptist called out the sins of his nation including the adulterous relationship of King Herod. Even though it cost him his life.

Stand up for an end to the wrong in our society.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." – MLK

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." – MLK

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." – MLK

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude." – MLK

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" – MLK

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." - MLK

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." - MLK

Proverbs 19:2 (NIV) Desire without knowledge is not good—how much more will hasty feet miss the way!

Matthew 28:16-20 (NKJV) 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.