

THE VALUE OF BLACK LIVES

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...”

-Acts 17:26.

The “Black Lives Matter” movement has taken on new urgency in recent weeks, after the brutal killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who, pleading for his life, calling for his mother, was suffocated by a white police officer kneeling on his neck, while he repeatedly cried, “I can’t breathe.” The video, taken in broad daylight, went viral, igniting a firestorm of massive protests across the USA and major cities around the world. The name George Floyd is but one of many such victims over decades. The protests was a response to centuries of oppression and exploitation, excessive force and brutality exhibited by police, combined with social, political and economic disenfranchisement of a people, **BASED SOLELY ON THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN!**

In his address to the Athenian philosophers, St. Paul defines our relationship to God and to each other: There us **ONE CREATOR** and **ONE BROTHERHOOD** of mankind. There is **NO** room, in Biblical terms, for the racial nightmare present in the world, particularly in a country that claims to exalt Biblical principles. Any attempt to invalidate the value of a person is, therefore, an assault on God’s sovereign creation, which invariably results in what we are seeing on the streets today: anger, chaos and destruction.

We may ask, where is the root of prejudice, the origin of racial hatred? Why do some consider themselves “superior” to others? The answers to these and all other questions related to mankind’s failure to peaceful co-existence are found in the character of man’s soul: **OUR SINFUL NATURE!** St. James puts it this way: *“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desire for pleasure (selfishness) that war in your members? –James 4:1.* The concept of “**RACE**” based on skin color has been so ingrained in the psyche that it became “the” distinctive characteristic that differentiates humans, when in fact, there is only **ONE HUMAN RACE**, with various genetic mutations within the species. That is why *“one blood,”* as St. Paul puts it, courses through our veins, allowing us to donate that life-sustaining fluid – to any other human, considering the Rh factor.

The Value of Black Lives is further established in **SPIRITUAL TERMS**: *“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.**”- Galatians 3:28.* In a world divided by so-called “race,” socio-economics, politics and geographic regions, only the **BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST** can ultimately unite us.

HYMN: *In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North,
But one great fellowship of love, Thru -out the whole wide world.*

PRAYER: You have made us all beautiful according to Your own image, O God. Break the cycle of Injustice. Instill in us true love for all people. In Christ, Amen.