



Foursquare Church, Bozeman MT

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Dear Mosaic Chapel,

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to have several conversations with people regarding the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the peaceful and violent protests that have resulted. I'm so proud of the people of Mosaic Chapel for being engaged in social and human rights issues, seeking education on these topics and recognizing that solutions to these complex issues begins with us, as humans and Christ followers.

As a pastor, I have a responsibility to provide thoughtful, educated, biblical and prayerful responses to issues we're facing. As Christ followers, we're called to both individually and collectively be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:16-20) and the hands and feet of Jesus (Romans 12:9-13). My hope is the below response will serve you as you process these issues for yourself.

I believe that racism, although it has political implications, is first and foremost a humanitarian issue. Although I welcome a diversity of political opinion, I believe we can unite on issues of human rights and the advancement of people being respected as God's creation. Racism isn't biblical and does not reflect the heart of God.

I believe that systemic racism is real, and not a fabrication or an excuse. The history of slavery and oppression in America continues to have implications today, in our income disparity, geographic segregation, stereotypes and perceptions of one another. I included below the link to a brief, non-political, well-researched video that describes systemic racism and ways we can help.

I believe that peaceful demonstration is an important way we can exercise our First Amendment right and use our collective voice to spur on change. Our voice and influence matter. As Christ followers, we can make a difference and represent a biblical worldview that communicates the love and concern of God for all His people. As God challenged the Israelites in Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

I believe that we, as humans and Christ followers, have a responsibility to get involved. I believe that involvement should be personal and local. This begins with each of us searching our hearts, and exploring our own personal areas of prejudice. We also have an opportunity to use our voice. This may include engaging in a collective opportunity, calling out racist comments or behavior when we see it, educating our children on these issues, or supporting an organization that works to provide opportunities and development for marginalized people. One of our greatest forms of witness of the love, acceptance and forgiveness found in Jesus is our example.

Thank you for being such an informed, thoughtful and educated community. Thank you for seeing every human as a child of God. I love being the pastor of Mosaic Chapel and am so honored and humbled to call you friends, fellow sojourners, and brothers and sisters in Christ.



Molly DuQue
Lead Pastor, Mosaic Chapel