

A Statement on Racism
From the Elders of Redeeming Grace Baptist Church
August 19, 2020

We believe that all people have been created in the image and likeness of God and should be afforded dignity regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status. (Genesis 1:26-27)

We affirm that skin tones of different color are a beautiful reflection of God's image. Overlooking this fact actually robs God of glory and disregards his creative work in humanity.

We believe that it is God's plan to redeem people from all nations and ethnicities and that the kingdom of God is and will be comprised of a beautiful diversity. (Matthew 28:18-20; Rev. 5:9)

We believe that local churches should strive to reflect such diversity as much as is possible in a given context.

We believe that the fall into sin has impacted every aspect of our lives and culture. As a result, the sin of racism exists. Racism (sin of partiality) is a terrible evil that scoffs at the purpose and image of God. (James 2)

We believe that racism is present in both subtle and overt forms. We believe that racism must be confessed and repented of in any form.

We believe that human depravity is the root problem of all sin including the sin of racism. While there are helpful / practical things we can do to address racism, we believe that only the gospel of Jesus Christ can fully address the issue because of its transforming work in the human heart.

We believe that it is the responsibility of Christians to weep with those who weep. This includes weeping with our friends and neighbors of color over racial injustices.

We believe that Christians should work to call out racial disparities and seek to make sure all people are treated equally in the church and society.

We believe we must afford one another decency and kindness in the way we speak both in person and on social media regarding matters of injustice. Not everyone's experience is the same and grace must be extended as we seek to contribute to a complex and often polarizing conversation.

We believe that Christians and churches should speak to all forms of injustice including racial injustice. While Christians may disagree on how to engage, we believe we must afford one another the grace needed so long as we remain faithful to Scripture in our pursuit of honoring the image of God and seeking to love our neighbor. Assume the best of one another.

While we affirm the statement “black lives matter” as undeniably true we do not support or agree with the agenda of the BLM organization who ultimately advocate for non-biblical views of humanity and sexuality.

We believe that government has been ordained of God and that it has responsibility to serve the common good. We also understand that government (local and national) has a responsibility to “bear the sword” in maintaining justice. This would include the work of law enforcement. We understand that sin impacts all professions including governing authorities who act unjustly. While some individuals do act unjustly and must be held accountable, we believe that most seek to do their job with dignity and honor. We are thankful for the ways government and law enforcement strive to maintain peace and safety in our communities. (Romans 13)

We believe the church has a unique responsibility to be a peculiar people as “salt and light” in the world and as such we should unapologetically pursue racial unity knowing that such unity can only be found as Jesus makes us one. (Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 2-3)