

We've Got Issues 2

Racism in America

Our generation in America has been turning away from Jesus Christ and the Christian ethic for many years. Because of this we have created a culture where evil has been allowed to expand.

By mocking God, scoffing at the Bible and attacking people who want to hold fast to Christian virtues in our homes and in our communities, we as a nation have allowed evil to increase. We have sowed seeds of rebellion, racial strife, hatred, and immorality and we are reaping a painful and bloody harvest of increased wickedness.

We've Got Issues and the government can't fix it. These are heart issues. The manifestation of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is the only answer to peace in this life.

Mt. 24:9-14 **9** "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and **you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.** **10** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.** **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations...

1) Parents must be the #1 discipler's of their children. When you think of your teenage sons and daughters or when you think of your little children becoming teenagers... what is your greatest fear? Is it bodily injury? Sexual immorality? Failing out of school? Addiction to drugs or alcohol? These are certainly legitimate concerns. But your greatest fear for him, and your greatest joy, needs to be centered on his or her spiritual life. In the fourth verse of 3 John, it says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 4) we must help them have their own real, life changing experience with Christ.

2) Jesus was full Grace and Truth and we should be too. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Racism is not must limited to Anglo-Americans vs. African-Americans, however these racial tensions dominate the conflict.

The Church must be an Example

1) Do not be surprised that Racial Issues continue to flair.

2) Racism is not Christian.

Colossians 3:8-11 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. **11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

a) Christians can sometimes act like racist.

b) Conversion means death to the sin of racism. Note: this is why, our children having a receiving the life of Jesus at salvation is so important.

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i) What it means to be (not just become) a Christian is to affirm by your behavior that a death has happened and a new life has been created. Col 3:2-3 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

ii) The death and new creation are decisive and once for all. But the living out of this reality is a daily work of faith!

3) Parenting our Kids through Increasing Race Issues

a) Teach them to Value and Respect all Human Life. Col 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. The reference to barbarians and Scythians is a reference to the way the upper class Romans and Greeks viewed anyone whose speech or manners or habits were foreign and uncouth and unrefined. If you have died with Christ and been created as a new self in the image of God, these kinds of differences

will not stop love and fellowship.

b) Teach them to Value and Respect the Law. When lawlessness increases evil triumphs.

Romans 13:1,2 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.
2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

c) Teach them to Pray.

i) 1 Timothy 2:1,2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

ii) 2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name 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.

Murfreesboro Mayor – Shane McFarland Murfreesboro Police - Chief Karl Durr

Rutherford County Mayor – Ernest Burgess Rutherford County Sheriff – Robert Arnold

Nashville Mayor – Megan Barry Nashville Police Chief – Steve Anderson