

CCH POSITION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Creation

God intends for all people to flourish together in harmonious unity. God says, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). The triune God does not create alone but in community, and in community humanity reflects the image of God. The image of God in community is expressed in diversity (Genesis 1:27; Colossians 3:9-11).

Such harmonious unity requires intimate relationship with God and one another (Genesis 2:18, 3:8; 1John 1:3; Psalm 97:1-2). Only in a loving relationship with God is biblical unity found with one another (Genesis 2:24-25; Galatians 3:28). God intends that humanity fill the earth (Genesis 1:28), which is seen in the diversity of languages and cultures (Genesis 10; Acts 17:24-27).

Fall

When sin entered the world, shame distorted and devastated community (Genesis 3:7), resulting in a lust for power, domineering hierarchy, and violence (Genesis 3:15-19; 4:8; Ecclesiastes 5:8-10; Amos 5:7; Matthew 23:23).

If we fail to connect issues of justice to the gospel, the Church fails to fulfill its calling in matters of justice, including race (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 58:6). Daniel and Nehemiah acknowledged and repented of corporate sin even when it was not their own personal sin (Daniel 9:3-20; Nehemiah 1:6-7). We confess that churches have not always been the hands and feet of Jesus regarding interracial matters. We acknowledge and grieve the racial separation in our country and repent of any complicity in and perpetration of those sins. (Leviticus 4:13-14; Psalm 19:12-13).

Redemption

Complicity in and perpetration of racial hierarchies can be redeemed by Jesus Christ. Our common identity in Christ and joint adoption as children of the Heavenly Father enables us to heal the divisions created by sin (John 17:21-22; Galatians 3:26-28; 6:15). God’s Word should lead us— not partisan loyalties or cultural pressures. Avoiding racist actions is not enough; God’s heart is for the oppressed and marginalized (Exodus 22:21-22; Leviticus 19:34; Psalm 9:9; Isaiah 1:17; Amos 2:6-7) calls us to oppose racial hierarchies. At its best, the Church has been at the forefront of this work.

As we seek to live out our mission of forming and growing disciples of Jesus, we find ourselves asking, “How do we respond as Christians who are called to live in these turbulent times?” Currently, our nation is struggling to find its way to practicing equal justice for all.

CCH POSITION ON RACIAL JUSTICE cont.

Redemption (cont.)

Our hearts ache to see how racism has undermined our country's ideals. We are grieved that our nation is so divided in its vision of who we are and who we aspire to be. While we cannot control national events, we commit ourselves to making Community Church a place that lives out Paul's words to the Galatians, "There is no Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female; we are all one in Christ Jesus."

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, to bring praise to God." Romans 15:5,6