

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCH

January 8, 2021

In the wake of the events that have taken place in our country this past week and year, we, like many of you, are grieving over the polarizing, lawless and violent behavior in our country. This is not a time for the church and spiritual leaders to remain silent.

In a time when many are searching for truth, and many others are simply seeking affirmation of their own opinion or party affiliation, it is our calling as followers of Jesus to return to the source of truth Himself. There is a great disruption taking place in the country we all call home and love dearly. The choice alone is ours: to enter into the fray of a fractured and broken system or to bring reform to our hurting land by standing on biblical conviction by utilizing the whole counsel of God's Word. It is time for Christians to do an audit of what we are reaping and sowing (Galatians 6:7).

A call for all believers:

- A call to begin with prayer. To genuinely seek the Lord both for restoration in our country, but also restoration of our own individual souls. To ask God to search our hearts and weed out any prejudice and lust of power which supersedes our allegiance to Jesus (2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 139:23-24).
- A call to remember our biblical mandate, regardless of our perspective on the current or future President, to honor civic leaders. It is okay to give your vote to the civic leader of your choice, but we are not to give them our hearts (Romans 13:1-2, 1 Samuel 8:6-7).
- A call for biblical justice and to name what needs to be named: hate, violence, lawlessness, racism and injustices that continue to mar the well-being of our neighbor. We condemn these behaviors and the church must advocate against them, especially for our brothers and sisters of color (Zechariah 7:9, Proverbs 31:8-9).
- A call to be a messenger of truth in all forms, both secular realities in the world we live and theological realities of scripture and absolute truth. God is the source of all truth (Ephesians 6:14, John 8:31-32).
- A call to remain steadfast in our allegiance to Jesus above all else. While some will cite their allegiance to Jesus as the amplifier of their political assertion, the end cannot justify the means or we have created for ourselves an idol (Jonah 2:8, Galatians 4:8-11).

We are called to be a people of faith, hope and love. Jesus declared that the greatest of these was love and that we are to put away childish behavior (1 Corinthians 13:11-13). This is not another call for peace or trivial reflection on love. Love is active. It is proactive. This is a love that stands, a love that advocates, a love that does not dishonor others, a love that is not self-seeking and a love that does not delight in evil, lest our witness as Christians become a resounding gong and clanging cymbal in our society.

1 Corinthians 13:7 should guide our response:

To Protect those who are marginalized and oppressed (1 John 3:18).

To Trust that God is sovereign and in control despite the sin on display in our fallen world (Proverbs 3:5).

To Hope in the eternity we long for where genuine reconciliation is realized (1 Peter 1:4-5).

To Persevere in pursuing justice here on this earth by denouncing hate, violence and prejudice (Galatians 6:7-9).

The actions of this past week and last year are devastating and destructive from broken leadership and belligerent rioters alike. We are calling for the people of God to turn to prayer, renounce all evil and stand firmly on the faith, hope and love that are markers of our Christian life.

- Highpoint Church

