

The Christian's Response

To Law Enforcement Controversies & Other Injustices

Where is God in this?

“Christians should never forget that our world is in a fallen, sinful, corrupt state. Racism, prejudice, evil, injustice and wickedness are to be expected.”

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The social temperature in this country is at feverish levels. The Church need not be absent...

In the wake of Ferguson, Staten Island, Cleveland and numerous other recent tragic events, the Christian is left with an important choice: to respond with sinful anger or righteous indignation. The Bible clearly tells us how to respond when injustices take place around us and we must rightly apply these biblical principles to our hearts and lives. In this brief study, we hope that God will illuminate the believer's mind through the truth of His Word.

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Principles for Life

- One As a Christian, you have a right to be angry and you also have a mandate to avoid sinful anger.
- Two Teach your children to respect authority in every arena of life but don't just tell them. Show them!
- Three Understand that this world is The Lord's and everyone in it. He will have the last say so be encouraged because you serve a powerful and just God!



“Serving the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ”

How Should I Feel?

- **Ephesians 4:26 (KJV) BE ye ANGRY, and SIN NOT: let not the sun go down upon your wrath...**
- **Ephesians 4:26-27(NLT) And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry...**
- **Luke 17:4 (NLT) Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.**

Christians have a right and a responsibility to be **ANGRY** at all injustice without compounding sin. It is not a sin to be angry. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, demonstrated godly indignation or anger against evil and injustice. Christ also taught and showed us that we should immediately forgive those who sin against us and not hold on to offenses so that we don't become bitter and then influence others to become bitter. Forgiveness does not mean an offender will never have to pay, give an account for their wrong or receive justice.



The shooting of Michael Brown occurred on August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Brown, an 18-year-old black man, was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, 28, a white Ferguson police officer. The disputed circumstances of the shooting and the resultant protests and civil unrest received considerable attention in the U.S. and abroad, and sparked a vigorous debate about law enforcement's relationship with African-Americans, and police use of force doctrine in Missouri and nationwide.



On July 17, 2014, Eric Garner died in Staten Island, New York, after a police officer put him in a grappling hold. Many have described it as a chokehold, while others argue it was a headlock and that no choking took place; the use of chokeholds is a violation of New York City Police Department (NYPD) policy.

How Should I React?

- **Romans 12:19 (KJV) Dearly beloved, AVENGE NOT yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

We must not seek vengeance for evils perpetrated against us, but through **PRAYER**, humbly submit our frustrations and hurts to the Father and allow Him to punish those who hurt us. Christians must not act in violence, fight and curse or damage property in response to evil or injustice.

Where Is God In This?

- **Genesis 6:5 (NLT) The LORD observed the extent of HUMAN WICKEDNESS on the earth, and he saw that EVERYTHING they THOUGHT or IMAGINED was CONSISTENTLY and TOTALLY EVIL.**
- **Micah 6:8 (NIV) He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To ACT JUSTLY and to LOVE MERCY and to WALK HUMBLY with your God.**
- **Matthew 24:12 (NIV) Because of the INCREASE of WICKEDNESS, the love of most will grow cold...**

We should extend justice and fairness to all when it is in our power. We should expect the same from our government and vote for people and laws that provide it. We can and should protest and demonstrate our godly disapproval of all forms of racism and injustice.

Christians should never forget that our world is in a fallen, sinful, corrupt state. Racism, prejudice, evil, injustice and wickedness are to be expected. Since the rebellion and fall of Adam and Eve, evil has always existed and it will ever be with us and against us until Christ's return. Our Lord and His prophets prophesied about this evil. It will increase and worsen as the Lord's return draws near.



How Do I Move Forward?

- **Romans 13:4 (NIV) For THE one in AUTHORITY is GOD'S SERVANT for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants; agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.**

We should model and teach our children proper respect for authorities, especially law enforcement officers. We should tell them how to speak with respect, caution and care toward the police. Sometimes, police hurt individuals due to fear and ignorance as well as prejudice and hatred. We must not exacerbate these already tense situations. If we feel wronged by officers, we should not rebuke or reprimand them, but appeal to their superiors or the courts.

The shooting of Tamir Rice, a twelve-year-old African American boy, occurred on November 22, 2014, in Cleveland, Ohio. Two police officers, 26-year-old Timothy Loehmann and 46-year-old Frank Garmback, responded after receiving a police dispatch call describing a "young black male" brandishing a gun at people in a city park. A caller reported that a juvenile, was pointing "a pistol" at random people in the Cudell Recreation Center, and clarified twice that the gun was "probably fake". The officers reported that upon their arrival, Rice reached towards a gun in his waistband. Loehmann fired two shots within two seconds of arriving on the scene, hitting Rice once in the torso. Rice's gun was later found to be an Airsoft replica. Rice died on the day after the shooting. His death has been ruled a homicide by the Cuyahoga County medical examiner.

On December 20, 2014, Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley, 28, killed two New York City Police Department(NYPD) officers in the line of duty at the Bedford–Stuyvesant neighborhood of the New York City borough of Brooklyn in the United States, ostensibly as revenge for the death of Eric Garner and the shooting of Michael Brown. Brinsley then fled into the New York City Subway, where he committed suicide.

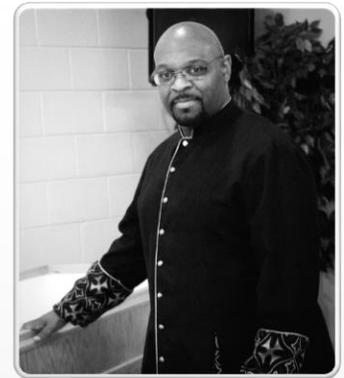
What Is My Responsibility?

- **Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish. (NLT)**
- **James 1:19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to LISTEN, slow to SPEAK, and slow to GET ANGRY. (NLT)**

The Lord tells His people (Christians) in His word (The Bible) to completely **INVESTIGATE** a situation before addressing it. The child of God should **LISTEN** and **LOOK** at every side of an issue and get an understanding before getting emotional or angry. Prior to discussing, debating or politically protesting for a matter, the believer must do his homework and then respond properly with wisdom and knowledge.

Finally...

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love.



Dr. Stephen W. Christian
Pastor

Dr. Stephen W. Christian is pastor of Bountiful Blessings World Fellowship in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has been in ministry for almost 30 years. Dr. Christian received his Bachelors of Professional Studies in Psychology from Arkansas Technical University and his Doctorate of Ministry in Christian Counseling from the Institute for Teaching God's Word Theological Seminary in Rockdale, Texas. He served several years as a professor of Biblical Studies at the Exodus School of the Bible in Cleveland, Mississippi. Dr. Christian is also an anointed recording artist. Warner/Electra/Arista distributed his latest compact disc entitled Call Me Christian nationally and internationally.

Schedule of Services

Worship
Sundays at 10:30am

Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:45pm

Location

4424 W. 30th St.
Little Rock, AR 72204

