

## **The Elephant in the Room and a Skeleton in the Closet A Perspective from a Biblical Worldview**

After enduring months of a social lockdown and the fear and confusion that has come with it (COVID-19),  
this nation is in the midst of a social meltdown that also has come with fear and confusion

It was triggered when a white police officer in Minneapolis murdered a black man  
The black man was handcuffed, face down on the pavement  
The officer's knee was on his neck  
He died of asphyxiation  
The arresting officer, and 3 other officers with him (2 of whom were rookies being trained), have been arrested and charged

Note: According to the justice system in USA, he/they are presumed innocent until proven guilty...but the video is appalling

The video has led to over a week of protests and riots in hundreds of cities nationwide,  
including Phoenix and Scottsdale  
Peaceful protests during the day, violent riots at night

Is the outrage justified?

Absolutely

Is the violence justified?

No

Participants

1. Protesters: law-abiding citizens who are right and justified in expressing their protest, one of their fundamental Constitutional rights  
They are to be protected by Law Enforcement
2. Organized criminals (Antifa): violent lawbreakers  
Outsiders, not residents of the cities where they are hijacking peaceful protests and leading riots and inciting violence...  
as they did in Ferguson MO, Baltimore, Charlottesville, Portland,  
Anti-fascist..."fascist" per their own very broad and convenient definition  
i.e. those they hate, their perceived enemies  
Anarchists (anti-government), socialists (anti-capitalism)  
They do not engage in policy reform thru the process of law,  
they engage in direct action i.e. physical violence, mob violence  
Young...college age (Antifa thrives on college campuses)...the next generation  
Sai looked at the arrest records of the looters of Scottsdale Fashion Center: the youth, ages 17 – 27

Dressed in “black bloc”: dressed all in black, covering their faces with hoods and masks to hide their personal identities

Logo-ed

Organized and funded

Pallets of bricks “randomly showed up” in strategic places before the riots started in NYC, Dallas, KC, Fayetteville NC...

there was no construction in any of those places

A video of a young white woman handing a brick to a young black man

They are to be prosecuted by Law Enforcement

3. Opportunists: looters, whipped into a mob by the organized criminal element  
They are to be prosecuted by Law Enforcement

btw...what happened to the gospel of social distancing preached by cities and states?

Went right out the window!

Nothing but “crickets” from those who by Executive Order mandated social distancing and a social lockdown

So either we will see a spike in COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks  
or perhaps the whole thing was way overblown and mismanaged,  
causing a great harm to a great many

### **The Elephant in the Room: Racism**

Does racism exist in 2020 in USA?

Yes, without question

Racism...hatred or intolerance of people of a different skin color...  
is a very real problem in USA

Does a black man minding his own business have a different reaction to being pulled over by a cop than a white man minding his own business does?

Yes, sadly

Even after the Civil War that emancipated the black slaves of white southern plantation owners?

Yes

Even after all the Civil Rights victories in the 1960s?

Yes

Because neither wars nor laws eradicate racism

Regarding the issue of police brutality as a manifestation of racism in America...

Law Enforcement is a necessary, noble, dangerous, under-paid job

All cops are required to make judgment calls in life-threatening situations

There are	white black brown	cops
	good bad	(vast majority!)

White people die at the hands of	white black brown	cops
----------------------------------	-------------------------	------

Black people die at the hands of	white black brown	cops
----------------------------------	-------------------------	------

Brown people die at the hands of	white black brown	cops
----------------------------------	-------------------------	------

Raw numbers: 2x white people are killed by police than black people  
Per capita: blacks are nearly 2½ x more likely to be killed by police than whites

AND...white, black, and brown cops are killed by white, black, and brown people

Are only whites racist?  
Absolutely not!  
All races are racist

If we are going to look at the elephant in the room, we need to look at the whole elephant

Does skin color matter in these cultures?

White  
Black  
Hispanic  
Asian  
Hawaiian  
Native American  
Jewish (Ethiopian Jews in Israel)

I once was accused of only caring about the homeless children in Egypt because I  
was a white man wanting to help brown babies...a racist accusation  
I was accused by a black Christian woman

Does USA have a monopoly on racism?  
Absolutely not!  
Racism exists in every nation

Who has a monopoly on racism?  
Mankind  
No nation does, it is in all nations  
Racism is a very big elephant!

So in this nation, why is “1965” and “1968” and “1994” happening again?  
Why is racism still the elephant in the room in 2020?

Because the problem is not political to be solved with rhetoric or legislation  
The problem is spiritual to be solved with repentance and a new heart from God

Racism is rooted in hate and fear  
Satan’s nature and way  
The antithesis of God’s nature and way (love and a sound mind)

The Elephant in the room is not alone.  
The problem of racism has a deeper ugliness in this country.  
There is a **skeleton in the closet**.  
God knows it is there.  
Nearly everyone knows it is there.  
But the destroyer of men’s souls has deceived most.

Abortion – the racist’s most devastating weapon

Planned Parenthood  
Organized and funded Racists  
Organized and funded Murderers

[ Abortion’s Devastating Impact Upon Black Americans ]  
[ Planned Parenthood Sanger ]  
[ PPFA Margaret Sanger Award Winners ]  
[ No. 18-1171, Supreme Court of the United States, 9/17/2019 ]

Institutional racism and eugenics are funded with our tax dollars!!!  
By both Democrat and Republican leadership

Planned Parenthood has exported this “health service” to the world,  
saying, “Health has no borders.”  
Their focus countries are in  
Central America  
South America  
Africa

Is anyone outraged and protesting about the murder of innocent babies?!  
Where are the protests decrying infanticide...hatred of the unborn?!  
Why are both blacks and whites carrying the torch for Planned Parenthood?!  
The “crickets” about the skeleton in the closet are deafening compared to the “crickets”  
about the elephant in the room  
But God is not silent about either the elephant or the skeleton!

What does **the Word of God** say about the Elephant in the Room and the Skeleton in the Closet?

Elephant in the Room

**Acts 17:24-27**

In His creative genius, God created all the races  
He is not “color blind”, He created all the colors  
The differences are to be celebrated, not feared or hated

**Acts 17:30-31**

The Creator’s call to wicked man: Repent, judgment is  
coming!

Skeleton in the closet

**2 Kings 24:1-4**

the judgment of the nation – measured but certain

Note: If you have had an abortion, have repented, and are saved by grace thru  
faith, that sin is washed away with all your sin,  
paid for by Jesus Christ on the Cross

Q1: What is the problem?

**1 Sam 16:7**

man is “shallow”

**Jer 17:9**

the “untouched by God” heart of man is the problem  
Man cannot know the depth and breath of the evil in his  
heart, God must reveal it to him

Heb 4:12

For the word of God *is* quick (alive), and  
powerful, and sharper than any twoedged  
sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder  
of soul and spirit, and of the joints and  
marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts  
and intents of the heart.

The color of a person's skin is not the problem  
The problem is spiritual  
Man's natural essence of being, the heart, is the problem (sin, no-good)  
Racism comes out of a wicked heart, it is an attitude of the heart that offends God  
Matt 15:18-19

Man's wicked heart loves darkness and rebellion and chaos and confusion

Deut 12:8     Ye shall not do after all *the things* that we do here this day, every man whatsoever *is* right in his own eyes.

Deut 12:28    Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest *that which is* good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

1 Cor 14:33    God is not the author of confusion but of peace

1 Cor 14:40    Let all things be done decently and in order

John 3:19-20   *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. (why the riots are at night)*

Judges 21:25   In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

Rebellion against authority...God and man

Jer 5:30-31    A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love *to have it so*

Is 5:21        Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Darkness, rebellion, confusion, and anarchy...and men love to have it so  
Still standing: God's call to repentance before the appointed day of judgment

Q2: Who is the enemy?

Protesters? No

Antifa and their mob? No

Racists and murderers? No

2 Tim 2:22-26

2 Cor 10:1-5

Satan and Gang are the enemy, seeking the destruction of mankind  
The lost (minds blinded to the Gospel by Satan) are POWs in need of “search and rescue” missions by...the Church

Q3: Where is this nation headed?

“Defund the Police” is a movement gathering momentum  
Cut budgets, dismantle and reorganize  
May help in reducing fiscal waste...may hurt in its implementation

Years of

- Racial fear and hatred
- God-lessness (post-WW II power and prosperity)
- baby killing (God would not pardon)

are coming home to roost

Did America murder the generation that would save it from this social meltdown?

[ Aborted ]

[GTM Show Screen](#)

The surviving youth have been raised in a nation that has insisted God leave society

[Is 30:8-11](#)

Gal 6:7

God is not mocked, we reap what we sow

Perhaps a sober look in the mirror would be helpful

[ Flagstaff PickUp 1 ]

[GTM Show Screen](#)

[ Flagstaff PickUp 2 ]

[GTM Show Screen](#)

These are days preceding the appointed day of judgment

[Matt 24:7](#)

nation = “race”

kingdom = “realm”, countries

[Matt 24:12](#)

*agapeo*

Given

- The Elephant in the Room
- The Skeleton in the Closet
- The Word of God

what is **the Church** to do?

Shout out to

Tony Dungy has been the most cogent and powerful voice thus far  
[ Tony Dungy Implores Christians ]

Herm Edwards: it's not about race relations, it's about human relations  
Respect

btw...college and pro football coaches make how much money compared to Law  
Enforcement and teachers?  
What does our society value?

The Church must:

- Look up...then look within
  - Behold the glory of the Lord – His purity
  - Examine our individual hearts...and repent if need be!
- Pray (1<sup>st</sup> order of business): heart problem, spiritual battle
  - confess the sins of this nation – be in one accord with God
  - Heb 4:16                      Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need
  - Acts 4:24-30...a prayer meeting broke out!
  - Matt 16:18...against the gates of hell
- call the nation to repentance: the voices of God to a people ravaged with hatred
- fight: the soldiers in the Lord's army
  - on our knees
  - with confrontation – confront the ugliness, call it out and rebuke it as we will see Stephen confront the ugliness of hate next week
  - with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we will see Stephen do next week
  - in the ballot box

One of our voices is our vote in elections; 2020 is an election year  
From a Biblical worldview, the most important issues are

- Israel
- Abortion

If we get those right, things can go right

If we get those wrong, nothing will go right...for God is not mocked

Vote

- the accomplices of murder (funding PP) out of office
- for people who respect life; they will celebrate the creative genius of God



- lead, by returning good for evil, love for hate
  - Rom 12:14, 17, 21
  - Matt 22:36-40
    - As we will see Stephen do next week
  - Matt 7:12      **Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.**
  - God's perspective
    - Mark Twain in 1904: "The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog."
    - The child of God: "The more I learn about Jesus, the more I love God and man, created in His image."
  - Love is our garment, the Love of God Whose nature is Love
    - Love the unlovely...just like Jesus loved you and me
    - Rom 5:8

We who carry the name of Jesus Christ,  
 having our "untouched by God" heart filled with Satan's nature and way  
 transformed, "made new by God" heart filled with God's nature and way,  
 are to live before God and man as the children of God

Gal 1:4      Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present  
 evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

The world is "going down"...at the hands of the Creator  
 We who are new creatures are not called to save the world but to call people out of the  
 darkness and into the Light  
 Thru the Church, God wants to touch racists hearts

Condemnation is never the answer, Love always is  
 John 3:17      **For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but  
 that the world through him might be saved**  
 Rom 5:20b      where sin abounded, grace did much more abound

We are to live as lights in the darkness and urge the fearful and hateful to save themselves  
 from this untoward/corrupt generation (Acts 2:40)

Do NOT remain silent and complacent about the Elephant in the Room  
 or the Skeleton in the Closet!  
 Because God is certainly not silent!  
 You may be witnessing to another Paul...as we will see Stephen do next week