

Race, Sin, and the Gospel: Is the Church Now the Problem?

A Biblical-Theological Perspective and Position
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Question: Who are we? What is our true identity?

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

“And he made from one man every nation [ethnicity, race, culture] to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling.” (Acts 17:26)

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March on Washington 1963)

Let’s start here, at the beginning. Who are we? What is our true identity? What is true about all human beings – whether black, brown, white, etc.? The answer is we are royal image-bearers of God Himself. We have received not achieved an identity from God.

THIS is who we are. THIS is every human being’s true identity. THIS is the truth about us. THIS is reality. THIS is the meaning of human life. THIS is human flourishing and well-being. THIS is being human.

Therefore, love everyone. Make friends with everyone. Respect everyone. Be generous with everyone. Bless everyone. Work with everyone. Do good to everyone. Make the world a better place for everyone. Disagree and still be friends with everyone. Forgive and seek forgiveness with everyone. Listen to, seek to understand, and empathize with everyone, especially with those who have been historically mistreated like our black brothers and sisters. And reach and renew everyone with the gospel.

Question: Should we define ourselves by our skin color?

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, this neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28)

No, we should not define ourselves by our skin color because the Bible never does that. In fact, while not actually denying the realities of race, culture, or gender, Galatians 3 shows that the Gospel obliterates those ways of classifying ourselves. We are always, sinfully, seeking ways to classify ourselves to make ourselves righteous. So, we think that we earn points with God because of our beauty, wealth, gender, skin color, profession, attendance at church, and the list goes on. In Galatians 3, Paul destroys that idea by saying that not even your gender elevates your

status before God. The only thing, *the only thing*, that matters is the classification of whether or not you are in Christ through faith. This is the aim we should strive for if we want to classify the human race.

Furthermore, we are not our race any more than we are our height, weight, eye color, or athleticism. It is important that we remember the classification of the human race by skin color is unbelievably shallow. While it is normal today to refer to people as “white people” or “black people”, this is a man-made label. We could just as much categorize people as “short people” or “tall people”. The fact of the matter is that we are not the color of our skin. We are not the level of melanin in our epidermis.

Biblically speaking, at the root we are royal image-bearers of God himself. This is our worth, value, meaning, singular significance, love and acceptance, confidence without pride, and humility without inferiority. In other words, this is our identity. First and foremost, to be in God’s image does not refer to your skin color, height, weight, eye color, or the like. It refers to being made by God himself to reflect something of what He is like on the earth as we love God, love each other, and take care of His creation.

The popular movement of race-identity is a false doctrine that teaches we *are* Black, White, Brown, etc. Again, this is similar to summarizing who we are by saying we are Short, Tall, Strong, Weak, etc. Race-identity has no place in the Bible. It is justification by works or race-righteousness. It is salvation-by-race and its corresponding condemnation-by-race. It is seeing the world through the lens of race – everything is about race. It is treating others according to race – everything is a race ethic. It is slavery to the idol of race – everything for the god of race. Therefore, **race-identity is its own alternative religion, doctrine, ethic, mission, kingdom, and church to Christianity.** It is a false gospel.

Question: Can race-identity change lives?

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

No. In an effort to respond to very real historical and/or current racism, current calls for “social justice” imply or explicitly say that all people of one race (particular white people) are racist (typically racist against black people). This is a racist idea. Responding to very real racism against black people with racism against white people will not change anything for the better.

“Black supremacy is as dangerous as white supremacy, and God is not interested merely in the freedom of black men and brown men and yellow men, God is interested in the freedom of the whole human race and the creation of a society where all men will live together as brothers, and

all men will respect the dignity and the worth of all human personality” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., DePauw University, September 5th 1960).

“Let us be dissatisfied until the day when nobody will shout, ‘White Power!’ when nobody will shout ‘Black Power!’ but everybody will talk about God’s power and human power” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., August 1967).

“Telling people that they are inherently oppressed, privileged, criminal, or racist, simply because of their skin color, is an act of racism and bigotry in itself. There’s nothing kind nor helpful about it. It sows the seeds of division and resentment” (Zuby, black author, rapper, podcaster, speaker, coach).

A person cannot and should not be labeled a racist simply because of their skin color. Racism does not reside in the level of melanin in one’s skin. Therefore, speaking, teaching, and otherwise communicating that “white people are inherently racist” is, well, racist. It is real racism. It is hateful. It is divisive. It is offensive. It is sin. It should be condemned, especially by the church. When church leaders and churches speak, teach, or otherwise communicate this kind of thinking and acting they are absolutely destructive and dishonoring to God.

Responding to racism with racism is born out of a race-identity dogma and activism that cannot carry the weight of one’s identity – it collapses or sinks into self. It does the *very thing* it seeks to stop and prevent. It mistreats others not of the same race. It justifies its mistreatment based upon the other’s race being less than, falling short, unacceptable, evil, unrighteous, or the universal oppressor¹. It does not listen to, respect, love, seek to understand, empathize, work with, forgive and seek forgiveness, or disagree and still be friends with the different racial other. It sees racial devils behind every bush. It is selective in its moral outrage. It lives in the delusional and enslaved world of identity-idolatry. Therefore, **race-identity is true racism no matter the skin color of its follower(s)**.

Question: What Is Justice (and Life)? Whose Justice?

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” (Matthew 22:36-40)

The Bible’s answer (God’s answer) is life according to the Law or Ten Commandments. God’s Law is the spiritual fabric of the universe. God’s Law is in the fabric of being a good, flourishing human being in a flourishing community of human beings. Whose justice? GOD’S. Period.

Therefore, God’s Law defines the reality of justice (and life), not racial definitions, agendas, categories, and grasps for control. God’s Law defines the reality of human flourishing, not social and political ideologies or narratives. God’s Law defines the reality of love, not personal preferences and desires.

¹ Critical race theory is a Marxist understanding of identity, justice, and power.

This is important to clarify because the 10 Commandments do not merely describe the just life as it relates to racism. The 10 Commandments describe justice as it relates to all sorts of areas, like murder, theft, spinning a lying agenda, slander, abuse, destruction, and violence. Thus, justice is not confined to the realm of skin color but many other issues, like the murder of unborn babies and the murder of five children in Chicago over the weekend of June 19-21, 2020. The 10 Commandments speak to the murder, theft, destruction, and violence of rioters and Marxist cultural terrorists nightly. The 10 Commandments speak to the racist accusations and abuse, violence, and murder directed at police officers for being police officers. The 10 Commandments speak to the blanket racist accusations, and therefore threats, intimidation, bullying, abuse, shaming, demonizing, and dehumanizing directed at others with differing ideological and political views. The 10 Commandments speak to the unjust “cancelling”, threats, intimidation, bullying, abuse, slander, shaming, demonizing, and dehumanizing of others.

Here is the point: selective outrage is not justice. When someone shows consistent public outrage for something like racism in America, after applauding their willingness to publicly denounce evil, ask: are you outraged about the other injustices occurring on a daily basis throughout America that dwarf racism in America, such as around 1,700 aborted babies every day, around 1 killing per day in Chicago alone, the innumerable sex slaves trafficked around the world, or the rampant fatherlessness throughout America as fathers abandon their kids in droves? If you find yourself unmoved by these other atrocities, you may not be after justice after all. If you find yourself posting, tweeting, blogging, and speaking about racism consistently but cannot be moved to say anything about abortion or fatherlessness, you must ask yourself, are you really interested in justice as it is defined by God?

Selective outrage is not justice. Justice has left the building no matter what is professed when you are selectively outraged. Therefore, if outrage is directed at racist sin wherever it is found (as it should be) but not against the systemic slaughter of unborn black babies nor the systemic black-on-black violence in urban areas, then justice has left the building. **Selective outrage is not justice. It is a self-righteous narrative.**

Question: What Is Racism?

“...do nothing from partiality” (1 Tim. 5:21).

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory” (James 2:1).

Historically, racism is believing your race, or skin color, makes you superior to another. This idea led to the enslavement of men and women made in God’s image with black skin in America, as well as other nations. Real racism is defined by God in his Law and condemned by God’s Law. Real racism is ultimately vertical, that is, it is idolatrous and not loving God (i.e. the breaking of the first, second, and third commandment). Thereby, real racism is consequently horizontal, that is, not loving others (i.e. the breaking of the other seven commandments). Real racism breaks God’s Law and thereby sins against God and one’s neighbor.

Therefore, true racism breaks God's Law. It wrecks a relationship with God and others. It tears at the spiritual fabric of the universe. It tears at the human fabric of being human. It is murder. It is dehumanizing. It is stealing someone's God-given humanity. It is lying about God, others, yourself, and the world God made. It is coveting or deifying one's race over another. It is comprehensive sin. In other words, racism is a big deal.

Question: Where Does Racism Reside?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9)

"...For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:22-23)

Racism exists in the sinful human heart. What the Apostle Paul calls the sinful nature or flesh. Racism is the sinful human heart before it is a sinful human act. Therefore, racism is enmity (with God and neighbor) not ethnicity.

To determine that someone is racist based on their skin color means that racism is found within someone's skin color or melanin levels. It is racist to think that way. Racism comes from the sinful human heart. Therefore, racism is not the ultimate problem in you, the church, or the world today. Sin is. Period.

Furthermore, racism exists in the world or what theologians call, "corporate flesh". As corporate flesh, racism has the ability to embody systemic forms. The obvious examples in the United States are:

1. The historic slave trade and its consequent enslavement of African-Americans.²
2. Even though the Civil War brought the official abolishment of slavery, systemic racism was clearly still present in the "corporate flesh" of the United States (i.e. its overall sinful attitudes, beliefs, actions, practices, and most institutions). However, this is not meant to communicate that all Americans were racist.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s seems to have been divinely instrumental for widespread repentance and social justice change.

Less obvious examples of "corporate flesh" at work in systemic forms in the United States today seem to be:

² According to African-American expert, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* (edited by professors David Eltis and David Richardson), is the "gold standard in the field of the study of the slave trade" because it records the entire history of the slave trade to the New World (1525-1866). According to the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database*, "12.5 million Africans were shipped to the New World" and "10.7 million survived the dreaded Middle Passage, disembarking in North America, the Caribbean, and South America." Gates asks, "How many of these 10.7 million Africans were shipped directly to North America? Only about 388,000. That's right: a tiny percentage."

1. The beliefs, narratives, and agendas of big business media, Hollywood, major social media platforms, globalist leaders, political leaders, and self-appointed cultural leaders.
2. The educational system from pre-school to higher education – especially higher education – wherever alternative beliefs to the reality of God’s world and Word are absolutized (deified) and differing views (interpretations of reality) are silenced, cancelled, and persecuted.
3. The growing popularity and influence of Marxist ideology and activism (*see footnote number four for a brief outline of its historical campaign of terror*).
4. The growing race-identity doctrine and its destructive influence in the church, not just the surrounding culture.
5. The growing intolerance, silencing, virtue signaling, slander, accusations, cancelling, bullying, abuse (verbal and physical), attempt to control, “re-education” and “struggle sessions”³, and the lack of redemption for *the other*.

Question: Who is racist in America today?

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory....If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.” (James 2:1-10)

“...For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Rom. 3:22-23)

Whoever builds their identity around their race rather than the identity God provides. Whoever seeks to establish a race-righteousness of their own before God, others, themselves, the Law, and all the “little l” laws of life (like “you’re not black if you don’t vote Democrat”).

Question: How should we think about “White Privilege”?

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory....If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.” (James 2:1-10)

First, all of us are agents and victims of “privilege” regardless the color of our skin. Sometimes taller people are more “privileged” than shorter people. Sometimes beautiful people are more “privileged” than less beautiful looking people. Sometimes wealthy people are more “privileged” than poor people. Sometimes people who know the owner or bouncer at a club are more “privileged” than those waiting in line. Sometimes Baylor University “privileges” wealthy donors over others. Sometimes D-1 athletes and the academically exceptional are more

³ All Marxist practices imposed upon the “unbelieving” or those needing “conversion.”

“privileged” than the ordinary student. Sometimes a parent “privileges” their child over another’s child. Therefore, “privilege” is much more complex than perhaps initially thought.

Second, if “white privilege” means racism resides in “white people”, that is, in a group of people who share similar levels of melanin in their skin, then “white privilege” is a racist idea or false doctrine. To say that someone is more privileged than another person, judging solely by their skin color, is racist. How would you know if a particular black person has lived a less privileged life than a particular brown person based solely on the fact that they are black?

The accurate way to think about privilege in America in 2020 is to understand that everything is case by case. For all you and I know, a given white man grew up poor, with no parents, had no money to go to college, and was a victim of racism his whole upbringing. When you tell him that he lives in privilege, never having to fear police brutality, financial crisis, family problems, or the like, he will tell you that you are wrong.

Question: How should we think about “systemic racism”?

Many think that “white privilege” cannot be taken on a case by case basis because the bottom line is that all white people enjoy living in a system or systems designed to give them success in life while oppressing others. Historically in America, these evil systems did exist. Many white people systematically oppressed black people by enslaving and murdering them, treating them as less than human. This was and is a horrific evil. We use the word “many” because not all white people were racist nor took part in slavery.

In 2020 in America, though not in other parts of the world, it does not appear that America has any systems oppressing people based on the skin color. Again, “systemic racism” is about not merely a person or group of people being racist. Systemic racism is when a whole, general system oppresses people based on their skin color. For instance, at one time in America it was legal to refuse to sell your house to someone because they had black skin. Far worse, it was legal to enslave someone because they were black. Today, both of these actions are highly illegal and punishable by law. In other words, the systems have changed. America used to have systems built on racist ideas. Today, at a systems level throughout our government, American law and systems sweepingly oppose oppressing others based on skin color, as well gender, disabilities, and more.

If there is systemic racism throughout America, where is it? Are there racist doctors, pastors, plumbers, cops, professors, social media influencers, moms, dads, grandparents, investors, civil rights leaders, etc.? Yes, of course! But are all doctors, pastors, plumbers, etc. racist? In other words, is there systemic racism still in the United States? If so, we are simply asking, “Where is it?” Most of the time, in order to answer this question with a confident, “Yes, there is”, the definition of systemic racism and even racism in general has to be so changed that it becomes almost incomprehensible and unidentifiable.

To show why it seems abundantly clear that America is not systemically racist against people of certain skin colors, especially black people, notice how the *whole* country was united in its

outrage over George Floyd. Everyone. What person or what group of any significance or significant size was pretending like George Floyd was not murdered? Sadly, however, that *unity* was sabotaged in a completely destructive direction as everyone began to fight each other over something they all agreed in.

Again, the *whole* country, including the allegedly racist NASCAR-world, was united in its outrage over the alleged racism directed at Bubba Wallace (an occurrence of racism now proven false). This is a good thing, right? The last president of the United States was a black man, who was preceded by many black men and women holding public office, including many black men and women who currently hold public office today. Two Supreme Court Justices are minority – Clarence Thomas and Sonya Sotomayer. The Surgeon General of the United States of America is black. Lori Lightfoot is the mayor of America’s third largest city and was formerly the president of the Chicago police board. Atlanta, Baltimore, New Orleans, Orange County, Denver, San Francisco, Little Rock, Charlotte, Birmingham, St. Paul, Newark, Buffalo, Dallas, and in 38 other cities the political leader (mayor) is black. And the list goes on. If America is systematically racist against black people, it is interesting to note that these systems are being led by many black people in positions of great power, such as mayors, police chiefs, and disproportionately (to population by race) black police forces.

For further thought: What ancient or modern nation is comparable to or better than the United States in its self-correction toward approximate justice during its relatively short existence?⁴ Romans 1 calls every human being (especially the church) to acknowledge and thank God for his generous common grace wherever it is found – for it is certainly never deserved.

In the face of not being able to identify actual racist systems, the definition of systemic racism, among many other definitions, is changed to mean that all white people are privileged, even racist, and therefore anything led or run by a majority of white people is necessarily oppressing non-white people. This is a definition built on the racist idea that all white people are racist and should be opposed, that is, the false doctrine of race-identity.

Therefore, church leaders and churches that speak, teach, and otherwise communicate that all white people enjoy “white privilege” and live in “systemic racism” need to repent of their race-identity doctrine. Perhaps, they need to repent of their race-idolatry, toxic self-righteous spirit, virtue signaling, public accusations and shaming, bully-like threats and control, and other unloving and divisive speech and actions. When the church lives in the dark kingdom of accusation and condemnation, it is doing the Accuser’s work.

Question: Why are the “goal posts” in the conversation about race always moving?

While reading this paper, you have possibly thought, “That isn’t the definition of racism! That isn’t the definition of systemic racism!” One of the greatest difficulties in the conversation about race and racism today is the ever moving “goal posts” of definitions.

⁴ We say “approximate justice” because there will never be “true justice” in this world – only in the new one to come.

For instance, 8-10 years ago you may have heard from prominent black leaders that mere “awareness” was what was needed. As some time passed, it became clear that white people needed to proclaim explicitly that they were not racist. When they did, the goal posts moved. It became clear that it was not enough to say you are not racist because the mere fact of being white meant you were racist, whether you knew it or not. Actually, to say you are not racist meant you were most ignorant of all that you are racist. As white people began proclaiming their subconscious racism, the goal posts moved. It became clear that one must be “anti-racist”. Then, as white people began reaching out for guidance, some strong voices go so far to imply they are now tired of white people reaching out to get guidance on how to be anti-racist! The goal posts are always moving. Definitions and goals change so fast that books like “White Fragility” are recommended and then quickly accused, by the same group, of being part of the whole problem! Yesterday’s solution becomes today’s problem.

Racism used to mean one person of one skin color looked down upon (to put it lightly) another person of another skin color. Today, sometimes the way people define racism is incoherent. You might hear “racism” replaced with “whiteness”. “Systemic racism” used to mean a real system provided actual laws and concrete pathways to oppress people of a certain skin color. Today, when America no longer has on its books laws and concrete pathways to be racist, the definition has changed and must change to be kept alive. Today, “systemic racism” may simply mean, “If you are white, you are racist. And because there are more white people than black people, all black people are oppressed by systemic racism.”

What is the root that is always moving the goal posts? At least one of the roots is the racist idea that all white people are racist. If you are labelled a racist, you can never really land in the place of truly helping eradicate racism. How could you when you *are* the problem? Another root is the reality that many who say they are seeking social justice are in fact not seeking justice at all. Many are caught up in virtue signaling to boost their own private and public sense of self-righteousness. Others want to see America’s form of government radically changed to a Marxist form of government. At the root, many people are not marching for equality, which is why they can simultaneously proclaim their desire for equality while being unmoved by the countless slaves being trafficked for sex each week, while being unmoved by the countless murders of babies in the womb, and while being unmoved by the little children murdered in Chicago *alone* each week. “Woke” church leaders who engage in this kind of race-identity dogma and activism are not living in the world of the Bible but of Karl Marx.

Question: How should we think about the phrase “black lives matter” and The BLM Organization?

The church must make a distinction between the phrase “black lives matter” and the BLM Organization. First, black lives matter! The church must condemn and call to repentance *wherever* black lives do not matter. Who disagrees with this?

Second, the Church must also condemn and call to repentance wherever the church identifies itself with the Black Lives Matter Organization (BLM). Why? Because of the stated mission and goals of the BLM Organization. They are fundamentally at odds with Scripture, the Gospel, or

Christianity. For example, fundamentally at odds with Scripture is its race-identity doctrine (which is moralistic, divisive, and racist), its mission to dissolve the family unit (which is created by God), its deification of Marxist ideology and class-activism⁵, its promotion of the systemic murder of unborn black babies, its selective silence amidst systemic black-on-black violence in urban areas, its vilification, intolerance, and dehumanization of differing ideological and political views (and of those who hold them), its identity-politics and activism (i.e. inseparably connecting black Americans to one political party), and its LBGQ-identity doctrine and activism.

Any church leader incapable of making the distinction between black lives matter and the BLM Organization and/or who is unwilling to do so cannot be trusted to handle God's Word, the Law and the Gospel, shepherd hearts and lives, and lead in Christ's church.

Question: Are police corrupt?

"My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory....If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." (James 2:1-10)

Generally, the vast majority of police officers perform their duties well. However, as there are corrupt bankers, insurance agents, pastors, etc. there are and will always be corrupt police officers. Every year police have a few hundred million encounters with the public. If the majority of police officers were corrupt and performing their duties in a racist manner, you would expect to find a massive amount of complaints filed against police officers from the public. However, the majority of complaints within Internal Affairs against police officers come from fellow police officers. This means the police are reporting on each other more than the public, something you would not expect to find if police officers were generally corrupt.

Question: Should our government defund the police?

"...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain." (Romans 13:4)

⁵ The late Rudolph Rummel, the demographer of government mass murder, estimated that the human toll of twentieth-century socialism to be about 61 million lives in the Soviet Union, 78 million lives in China, and roughly 200 million lives worldwide. This terror is unrivaled in human history. Marxism's biggest targets have always been the family, religion, and civil society, because they are the institutional obstacles to the imposition of the omnipotent state. There is a reason the book of Revelation in the Bible calls demonically-energized states, "the Beast", and then identifies its state-salvation attempt as utter failure (i.e. the symbolic number of "666", that is, it forever fails to reach "7" or perfection). Current American expressions of Marxism (i.e. the former "CHAZ" of Seattle and elsewhere) celebrate Marxist leaders like Lenin as they seek to remove institutional obstacles in the way of their stated mission and goals.

No. Romans 13:2-4 says, “Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.”

Paul, the author of Romans, is not here saying governments are without corruption. Far from it, Paul lived within a government system of great evil and corruption. However, Paul knew that God was sovereign over earthly governments. Furthermore, Paul knew there is a “sword” to bear. To defund the police is not to get rid of the sword and power. It is simply to give the sword and the power to another agency.

This is precisely what we witnessed occurring in the space occupied in Seattle called “CHAZ”. Protestors occupied a space not void of ruling power and a ruling sword. Far from it! “CHAZ” took the “sword” and the power from their local government and police, or sought to, and established their own borders/walls, protected them with their own guns, and enforced their own rules by controlling people through fear and intimidation.

The question you must ask is, who do you want to have the sword? The answer is that you either want the American way of government to continue and therefore you want the American government to continue to enforce the rule of law or you want a complete deconstructing and reconstructing of the American way of life; you want a new government, new rules, new laws, and new systems. Therefore, defund the police and do something different. The question is, what is that “something different”? Who will you call if someone breaks into your home? Who will you call if someone beats you up? Who will you call if someone steals your car?

If anything, American police forces need more money for better training. Police officers have an incredibly difficult job. Every day, police officers risk their lives, just to pay the bills. They are put in situations that one wrong decision can mean they are put in prison for life. And they are filmed while doing it. Would you want a camera on you 8 hours a day at your job that includes far less pressure? Probably not. But that is their daily reality. They work long, hard days and have little time to continually train. If anything, our police need more money and more time to get better and better training to avoid mistakes and corruption.

Question: What is our only hope against the power of racism?

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

The answer to racism is the gospel or good news of Jesus and his salvation alone. When Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that”, whether he knew it or not, he was actually

describing how the Gospel itself works. It is the love of God for us that changes us, not the hatred of God.

Only the gospel of Jesus Christ and his salvation heals racism in the human heart and the world. The gospel is the power of God alone for real heart and life change. It gives a righteousness from God that is received not achieved (Romans 1:16-17). Therefore, it ends the struggle for righteousness, including the struggle for a righteousness based on one's race! In Jesus' righteousness all counterfeit identities finally come to a breath-taking end, making us ENOUGH and ONE before God and each other.