May 28, 2020

“Please, please, please I can’t breathe. Please, man” George Floyd pleaded with the officer kneeling on his neck to no avail.

Tragically, what we witnessed in South Minneapolis on May 25, 2020 was horrifically wrong. The bible says to “Hate what is evil…”. The indignation arising in the hearts of Minnesotans has spread throughout the nation because the manner of George Floyd’s death assaults the very core of our humanity. Handcuffed and denied the dignity of even breathing, Mr. Floyd was denied the most basic of human rights: the right to life. The courts on this earth will come to a decision as to the culpability of those responsible, but there is no doubt that the killing of a human being created in the image of GOD is a horrific crime against our Creator (cf. Genesis 9:6).

The denial of Mr. Floyd’s humanity and therefore of the image of God who created him isn’t new. The kind of denial that was pervasive during slavery and the Jim Crow era sadly, still exists today. That denial feeds these tragedies. The abolitionist phrase, “Am I not a man and a brother” has been running through my mind. Today, the question is, “Am I still not a man and a brother?”

The problem that we face is much deeper than the actions of a few individuals. Racism permeates our culture and feeds the hearts of individuals. It exists in our institutions and systems. We are awash in a culture that communicates to many people, “you are less than.” Our God says he put his image in all of us, no exceptions. For far too long, there has been an epidemic of police brutality against minorities, especially African American men. Certainly, not every police officer follows that path, many are true civil servants, but our history demonstrates this is not an isolated incident. IT MUST STOP! Opportunities have been denied; liberties have been denied; and life itself has been denied.

Our God cares. God is a God of justice and righteousness. These characteristics are at the very core of who he is. They are right at the heart of the cross of Jesus Christ and his plan for redeeming sinful people. Our hope for change is not merely in building understanding and community because our ultimate hope is in GOD. We cry out to GOD for our nation. Lord, have mercy. Replace our hardened hearts. Change our hearts to love and honor you, and to love and honor our neighbors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of CityJoy,

Scott Anderson
Executive Director