Dear Church Family,

As church leadership, we wanted to remind you of our position on racism. Admittedly, we live in a charged environment today so no letter, conversation, or presentation can adequately deal with every aspect of racism. Because of the emotion involved, every discussion of racism is influenced by complexities, known and unknown, that can create virtual landmines. With that in mind are asking for grace, seeking unity, and are open to answer your questions.

Our statement regarding racism can be found in the Cultural Issues section of our Statement of Faith. (Section 2.02.B.5).

Racism. We believe that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). We believe that it is the responsibility of all people to recognize the lingering effects of the long history of racism in this country and to seek racial reconciliation. We also believe that racism, like all sin, can be confronted and overcome only through prayer and by actively seeking to be obedient to Scripture. Therefore, we are committed to reaching beyond any racial barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

To recap our position… racism is sin. It must be confronted. It must be overcome through prayer and actively seeking to be obedient to Scripture. That is what our statement of faith says, and I would strongly believe that the vast majority of you would give a hearty “Amen!” to that.

But I would ask you to take a moment and consider what that statement means when it says “actively seeking to be obedient to Scripture” in this area. Let me share a few ways to do that.

**Pray for an Open Heart**

_Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!_

One thing we can all be sure of is that our hearts are desperately wicked, so much so that even we are deceived as to the depth of sin in them (Jeremiah 17:9). We can’t enter this conversation without asking God to make us aware of the sin in us, whether that’s prejudice or outrage.
**Be Humble**

*Galatians 3:28* There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Paul was writing these words to the Galatian church reminding them of what has been accomplished in Jesus Christ. He’s telling them there is no status greater than the one they’ve been given in Jesus. Too often our pride tells us that we are something more than we are, or that we are smarter than we actually are.

C. S. Lewis said in his book Mere Christianity: “If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”

Walk humbly, acknowledging your need for more understanding. If you think you have all of the understanding in this area, rest assured, you don’t.

**Stop Talking and Start Listening**

*James 1:19* My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

I am a white man who will always be white and has never experienced anything even remotely close to what my brothers and sisters of color experience, and most likely never will. That means I have no right to tell them how they should feel. Instead, I have the responsibility to listen. I must seek to understand what it is they are saying.

**Parents, This is on You**

*Deuteronomy 6:6–7* These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

While the church needs to be teaching truth repeatedly, this must begin at home. Deuteronomy 6 describes when you are to be teaching them – when you sit, walk, lie down, get up. The point is – there is no time you aren’t supposed to be teaching them.

We want to help you, so our children’s ministry will make some resources available to you along the way. This article is a good starting point.

Seek to be a Part of the Solution

The rights and privileges of citizenship are a gift from God that even the Apostle Paul took advantage of. As an American citizen, we must steward that gift, investing it and taking full advantage of it. If we only use our citizenship to gain something for ourselves, we are doing it wrong. We must be using that citizenship for the good of others.

Maybe a compare and contrast would be helpful here. What is it that you’ve done to fight abortion? Have you sent a letter to a politician? Have you made a phone call? Have you shown up at a rally? Have you supported a local pregnancy center?

So now ask yourself this question: What is it that you’ve done to fight racism? Abortion and racism are both sin, so those answers should not be very different. Yet I’m afraid that they couldn’t be further apart for most of us.

I am praying that the Uniontown Bible Church family continues to grow in grace, mercy, and the ability to live differently in these trying and difficult days.

Pastor Frank Taylor