

Christ Chapel's Statement on Racism

We, the Elders of Christ Chapel Bible Church, make the following statements, believing they accurately express and adhere to the path modeled by our LORD Jesus Christ. So, as His followers:

1. We are committed to loving God with all our heart, soul and mind. We are also committed to loving others — of every tribe, nation, tongue, ethnicity, or race — as ourselves.¹
2. We are committed to seeking biblical justice and to practicing and promoting loving kindness² as we carry out the Great Commission.³ We will continue supporting those fighting for biblical justice.
3. We believe treating any human being in any way other than as an equal under the eyes of God is **sin**, and we must not be silent about it. We condemn racism (as well as injustice and unjustified violence) as sin, and since it is primarily a spiritual problem, it is something to be fought using spiritual solutions.
4. We believe that any words, attitudes, actions or inactions based on anyone's color, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender or background is **sin** and breaks the God-intended unity of His Church. Racism in our church will not be tolerated and we stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ affected by racism, whether they attend our church or not.
5. We believe that to live out our mission,⁴ as well as our commitment to be a "church without walls," we must continue efforts to address, engage, combat and rectify all situations where sin causes peoples' differences to be anything other than glorifying to God. We will continue to step into areas of biblical racial reconciliation through organic relationships, strategic partnerships and coordinated service.

Therefore, we will continue to use whatever voice and resources the Lord gives us, and under the direction of our Elder Board we will prayerfully and peacefully engage our culture with the gospel in order to see such situations and strongholds changed.

Biblical principles we affirm to be true and antithetic to racism:

- **Imago Dei.** Every human is unique in all of God’s creation because he or she is an “image bearer” of the Creator. And because every human being possesses qualities and attributes of God as His “image bearer,” each person is sacred and valuable and must be treated with utmost dignity and respect regardless of color, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender or background.⁵
- **Same Ancestry.** Every human is descended from the same parents, Adam and Eve.⁶ And through all the generations, God has never shown partiality⁷ — not according to color, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender or background.⁸
- **Same Grace.** While we were still sinners, Christ died to reconcile each of us to God.⁹ He patiently and unceasingly seeks *all* people to become part of His family,¹⁰ making us His children.¹¹ And God’s unfailing love and infinite grace are equally available to all, who are universally undeserving.¹²
- **One Body.** When we accepted Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf, we all became “one people” (His people¹³) and one Body.¹⁴ Christ’s shed blood covered us all identically¹⁵ and with equal effectiveness.
- **One Eternal Home.** We look toward an eternal destiny where we stand unified, in “agape” love, shoulder to shoulder with saints from every nation, tribe and tongue as part of the family of the Redeemed praising the same Savior as our Brother and the same God as our Father.¹⁶

¹ **Matthew 22:37-40:** 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.”

² **Micah 6:8:** [A]nd what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

³ **Matthew 28:19-20:** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

⁴ **Colossians 1:28-29:** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

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- ⁵ **Genesis 1:26-27:** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them; **Colossians 3:10:** [P]ut on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- ⁶ **Genesis 1:28:** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,”; **Genesis 3:20:** The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living; **Acts 17:26:** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.
- ⁷ **Acts 10:34-35:** So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him; **Galatians 3:28:** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus; **Colossians 3:11:** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
- ⁸ **James 2:1, 9:** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors; **Leviticus 19:34:** You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God; **1 Timothy 5:21:** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.
- ⁹ **Romans 5:8:** [B]ut God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- ¹⁰ **2 Peter 3:9:** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance; **Romans 1:16:** 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; **Romans 10:12:** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.
- ¹¹ **1 John 3:1:** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- ¹² **John 3:16:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life; **Ephesians 2:8-9:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast; **Psalms 103:10:** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹³ **Matthew 22:39:** You shall love your neighbor as yourself; **Leviticus 19:18:** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.
- ¹⁴ **Ephesians 2:13-14:** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility; **1 Corinthians 12:13:** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
- ¹⁵ **1 John 2:2:** He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world; **Acts 15:9:** and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.
- ¹⁶ **Revelation 7:9:** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.