

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS, PT. 6
OCTOBER 1, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. What's the biblical response to the movement "Black Lives Matter"?

- A. The bible agrees with the statement "black lives matter" while it stands in direct opposition to key components of the movement "Black Lives Matter."
- B. It agrees with the statement in that people are valuable to God. He cherishes each of us. Every human is uniquely fashioned and formed by God for God. Furthermore He paid the penalty of each of our sin by the precious blood of His beloved Son. Therefore black lives matter to the highest extent.
- C. At the same time it's evident from reading BlackLivesMatter.Com that several of the core values of the movement stand in direct opposition to the Bible.
- D. Consider this statement from blacklivesmatter.com, "Black Lives Matter affirms the lives of Black queer and trans folks...and all Black lives along the gender spectrum."
- E. The following are values of "Black Lives Matter" (from blacklivesmatter.com): Diversity, Empathy, Loving Engagement.
- F. It also includes:
1. Black Villages - "We are committed to disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure"
 2. Queer Affirming – "We are committed to fostering a queer affirming network"
 3. Transgender Affirming
 4. Therefore Christians cannot stand with the movement Black Lives Matter.
- G. Expressing love, care, and compassion for one another in the Body of Christ is commanded and understood as how believers are to live (Rom 12:10, 13:8, Eph 4:2, Col 3:13 1Th 4:9, 2 Th 1:3). This includes showing empathy with understanding to those who are hurting. (Rom 12:15)
- H. In light of the current racial tensions in our nation it is important for blacks and whites to compassionately listen to each other in order to come to real understanding and depth of relationship.
- I. I believe there is a responsibility that the majority culture has to welcome and affirm minorities. As the majority, white believers must affirm and protect the dignity and respect of our black brothers and sisters, as well as all other minorities.

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II. How should believers respond to the NFL player's protests during the national anthem?

- A. The media has spun the narrative on these protests.
 - 1. The protests were originally geared to raise the question of injustice; specifically are blacks receiving equal and fair treatment under the law.
 - 2. The media has said over and over that the players are protesting the flag, the national anthem, or the American military, yet none of the protesters have ever said that.
 - 3. When Colin Kaepernick talked with a U.S. marine about the protest, the marine told him it would be more respectful of the flag, the military, and those who have fought and died for our nation if he would take a knee instead of sit during the anthem. Kaepernick immediately complied and instead of sitting, began to take a knee during the national anthem.
- B. Most recently a large number of players have engaged in some sort of protest, primarily because President Trump made a statement that owners should fire those who don't stand during the anthem, calling them an expletive.
- C. Whether you agree or disagree with the method of the protest, the 1st amendment of the constitution protects the right to peaceful protest and freedom of speech.
- D. Most who are against the protest are against the protest because they see it as a denigration of the American flag, our military, and our national anthem.
- E. The church must respond with compassion and tenderness rather than judgment, all the while recognizing that there are people on both sides of this issue who are deeply hurting.
 - 1. Gold Star families who've had children lose their lives serving in the military in protection of our country have a difficult time seeing the protests as anything less than a personal attack by people who are ungrateful for the freedoms that they have in America.
 - 2. Those who are protesting are trying to point out that there are racial injustices that still exist in America and many people are still experiencing much pain as a result.

III. What does the Bible say about interracial marriage?

- A. There is no biblical prohibition to marrying someone of a different culture or ethnicity.

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B. There is however a biblical prohibition on marrying someone who is not a believer in Jesus in Deuteronomy 7:1-6 and 2 Corinthians 6:14.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

C. A misinterpretation of the prohibition in Deuteronomy 7:3-4, led people historically to believe and propagate the false idea that God was against interracial marriage. Eugenacists capitalized on this false ideology to try to keep “races” pure, in order to propagate white supremacy. The entire ideology is false and should be repented of.

D. If you have a problem with the idea of your child desiring to marry someone of a different culture, I want to propose to you that there is prejudice in your heart and that you need to repent.

E. In Numbers 12, Moses’ brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, were disciplined by the Lord for criticizing Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman. It is not specified what their specific criticism was, however, it is possible they were offended with Moses because she was Ethiopian.

IV. What does the Bible say about patriotism? Many believe that Christians are required to have a heightened amount of American patriotism, what does the Bible say?

A. As believers our citizenship is firstly in heaven (Phil 3:20, Heb 11:13-16, Heb 13:14).

B. We are to prioritize the values and expansion of the Kingdom of God above everything else (Mat 6:33).

C. Believers are to be subject to and honor their earthly governments and leaders (Romans 13:1-5, 1 Peter 2:17).

D. Believers are to pray for their nation and it’s leaders (1 Tim 2:1-3).

E. Nation’s who claim the Lord as their God and serve Him according to His way will experience His blessing. (Psalm 33:12)

F. Patriotism simply means, “to love one’s country.” There is nothing wrong with showing your support and loyalty to your country. In fact believers are encouraged to pray for their government and the good of the nation in which they live.

G. The only time patriotism becomes sinful is when our pride and love for our country supersede our love for God.

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H. Confusion arises when believers identify a political party as “God’s party” or a specific nation as “God’s nation.” God doesn’t favor any political party. And the only nation identified as the Lord’s is the nation of Israel (Ex 4:22, Jer 31:9, Zec 2:8).

I. Some believers mix their faith with patriotism and the result is “Christo-nationalism”. There is a vast difference between Christianity and Christo-Nationalism.

1. A Christian submits to the values of the kingdom of God to further the agenda of the kingdom.
2. Christo-Nationalist submits to Jesus’ teaching to the extent that they strengthen national interests and further the agenda of the nation