



DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Following Jesus. Loving God. Loving Others.”

STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE BY DOWNTOWN SHEPHERDS (10.14.2020)

We, the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy, AR, acknowledge we are living in troubled times and that the sin of racism is not unique to our times. This fallen world has a long history of racism. The United States is no exception. For example, the institution of race-based enslavement of others present at our nation’s founding was and is inherently evil because it defames the image of God of both enslaved persons and their enslavers. It also led enslavers to adopt the Satanic attributes of hate, pride, captivity, and hopelessness. Prejudices, stereotypes, and inequalities based on any race are always wrong.

As Christians we are called to confront racism wherever it is found. Be it on the individual or the systemic level, racism is always evil, sinful, and without excuse. To ignore it would be sinful complicity. We acknowledge, lament, and repudiate the actions and/or passive inactions of people, including ourselves, who were complicit, even if only by silence, in supporting and continuing racism.

To that end we publicly state that we stand with our brothers and sisters of color on the level ground that surrounds the cross. We seek to better know, love, and understand our brothers and sisters of color while acknowledging that we still have blind spots of which we are unaware. We pray the Lord will continue to reveal these blind spots to us and give us courage to remove them. We not only stand against racism but we stand for healing and reconciliation. Our hope is in the redemptive work of the Spirit who is at work within all of us. Most of all we seek to join alongside our brothers and sisters of color in the presentation of Jesus Christ to a world full of beautiful people in desperate need of the Gospel.