

## PRAYER GUIDE :: Racial Injustice

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*"Yahweh, the Most High, is the standard of justice and those properly related to God become just." - Richard Clifford*

We pray this guide serves to help lead you as you pray for our community and nation in the midst of unrest. It is good for us to remember who God is, remember who we are as God's image bearers, lament over the brokenness and evil still being experienced, confess where there have been either sins committed or good neglected, and to look to our ultimate hope in Christ as we await his return. May God give you his grace, and may that grace be multiplied to those with whom you interact.

### Reminding Ourselves of Who God Is

- Psalm 9:9 "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."
- Job 5:15-16 "He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful. So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth."
- Psalm 146:7 "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free."
- Romans 13:1 "...For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."
- Psalm 89:14 "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you."
- Psalm 103:6 "The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed."
- Psalm 72:4 "He will defend the afflicted among the people, and save the children of the needy; He will crush the oppressor!"
- Psalm 10:17-18 "You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror."
- Psalm 11:7 "For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face."

### *Specific Prayer:*

- *Meditate on the attributes of God*
- *Praise Him for Who He is*

## The Image of God

- Genesis 1:27 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

### *Specific Prayer:*

- *Confessing the times we and our society have looked at people and seen stereotypes instead of image bearers*
- *Confess the times we and our society have entertained racist thoughts, perspectives, habits, and behaviors; have acted apathetically to injustice, and have responded pridefully instead of out of love and humility.*

## Lament for Suffering

- Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn"
- 1 Corinthians 12: 26, "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it..."

### *Specific Prayer:*

- *Pray for the families of Amaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Brionna Taylor who have suddenly lost their son/daughter/brother/sister/cousin/grandchild*
- *Pray for the African-American community and our African-American brothers and sisters in Christ who are grieving these events and feel unsafe due to racism.*
- *Pray for the city of Minneapolis, and all of our cities*
- *Pray for our nation*
- *Pray that we as the church would grieve and lament appropriately*
- *Pray for bitterness, pride, or self-preservation that might make it unable to see or empathize with others' suffering*

## God's Calling for His People

- Amos 5:15 "Hate evil, love good; maintain justice..."
- Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

- Zechariah 7:9 "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'"
- Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- Matthew 5:14 & 16 "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."
- John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

#### *Specific Prayer:*

- *Pray for churches around the country to see all humanity as image bearers*
- *Pray for unity in the American church, pray that we would live out the gospel standing together for justice, mercy, and peace. Pray that we would love one another.*
- *Pray that we would boldly do justice and boldly love mercy.*

### **Remembering Our Calling (and confessing where we have failed)**

- Psalm 82:2-4 "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
- Hosea 12:6 "But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always."
- Isaiah 56:1 "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed."
- Galatians 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- Philippians 2:3 "Count others more significant than yourself"

- Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

**Specific Prayer:**

- Pray for boldness and wisdom for how to respond as believers
- Pray for Christian police officers to model what it means to do their jobs with godly justice
- Pray that white Christians would take the posture of humility, being slow to speak and earnest to learn.
- Pray that we would seek to understand before seeking to “be heard” or to “be right”.
- Pray that we would be quick to confess our sins to God and to each other.
- Pray for African American Christians would have supernatural grace to show compassion and pursue peace with the very people that kill them
- Pray that our churches would truly know the Prince of Peace, “who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph. 2:14).

## Proclaiming God’s Vision | Heralding God’s Future Promise

- Isaiah 58:6-10 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?...and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”
- Amos 5:24 “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

**Specific Prayer:**

- Pray that all those in authority would confess their wrongs, find salvation in Christ, do justice, walk with humility, and serve wisely.
- Pray that those protesting would express anger in a constructive way. Pray that attitudes of wisdom, peace, and boldness be granted to those who are standing against injustice.
- Pray that our nation would know Jesus as the “Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings” (Isa. 58).
- Pray that God would execute justice, show the riches of His mercy, and establish His shalom in our land so that all may glorify Him.

- *Pray that God's coming Kingdom would be evident in His people and that they would carry the marks of that Kingdom out into the world*

## **Prayer for Peace in Our Communities**

*Gracious God,  
We pray for peace in our communities this day.  
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,  
And those who work to uphold law and justice.  
We pray for an end to fear,  
For comfort and support to those who suffer.  
For calm in our streets and cities,  
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.  
In your mercy, hear our prayers,  
now and always. Amen*