Tears fill our eyes, our stomachs churn, our hearts break, and our souls feel weary. Headlines, once again, overflow with a horrific story about a senseless killing of an unarmed African-American male, in this most recent case, George Floyd. The frequency in which this injustice still happens to this day is shocking. It’s disgraceful to see how deeply rooted racism is within our culture. As Christians, we must see that racial reconciliation and matters of race are not simply a social issue; they are a gospel issue. Racism is a sin that has plagued God’s creation from the early chapters of Genesis and is one we look forward to Jesus eradicating upon His return.

God makes all humans regardless of the color of their skin in His image (Gen. 1:27). This means they are worthy of the utmost worth, dignity, and respect we desire and expect for ourselves. Unfortunately, this has not been the experience for many of our black brothers and sisters, as well as other people of color. God made us in his image. Any attack on the value and worth of another human is an affront on God himself (Jas. 3:9-10). In Proverbs 31:8-9, God calls for his people to speak up for, and aid in the defense of the oppressed. Our intention and desire is to do just that. Here at Summit View Church, it is our desire to listen, speak, and defend the rights of our brothers and sisters.

We see that the story of the Scriptures and the goal of the Gospel is one of reconciliation. God’s desire for his creation is to be reconciled back to Him, as well as one another. This inherently means that the Gospel is to bring together people that don’t look like or talk like one another. We are to see this as a good and glorious gift given by God. In the initial expansion of the Gospel to the world, Acts 10:44-48 shows to us the Gospel of grace going forward and unifying a people into the body of Christ to share in the same faith and Spirit. In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul speaks extensively to the power of the Gospel in its works to destroy hostility between people. Revelation 7:9 gives us a beautiful picture of people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and our Savior. May these truths be evident in our community. But until that day, we grieve and mourn. At Summit View Church, we do not want to be complicit in our silence. We do not condone any acts of violence against the image-bearers of God. Rather, in the words of Jesus, we want to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please join us in praying for justice to be done, peace of the Holy Spirit to reign, reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and a movement of God in our nation.

Sincerely,

The Elders of Summit View Church