

Sermon Based Questions

Week of June 7, 2020

United – Change Must Come

1. This has been a heartbreaking and emotionally charged week in our nation and around the world. Pastor Wesley and Pastor Jeff hosted a video on Facebook with some of Heritage's black attendees, that was very informative and helpful. How have you dealt with the recent events spiritually, personally, or emotionally?

2. *Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."* Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

Racism isn't just the presence of hatred, it is the absence of love. What does 'Love your neighbor as yourself' mean to you? Who comes to mind when you hear 'love others as yourself', your family, your co-workers, your friends, or all people?

3. Racism is not a skin issue, it is a sin issue. There is much conflict right now with many differing opinions shared online and during the protests. How can we stay true to God's teachings when we are faced with these types of conflict?

4. The Golden Rule. *Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.* Matthew 7:12 (CEV). Why do you think some people find this so difficult to do? How would you respond if you saw someone being treated unfairly? How would you feel if a member of your family was being mistreated and nobody stepped in to help them?

5. How can we live out the Golden Rule? Stand with others. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 (NLT) tells us that two people are better than one and three are even better. Discuss ways to show support for others in your place of employment, your gym, or other group you belong to.

6. How can we live out the Golden Rule? Make your love known. *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.* Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT).

...let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18 (NIV) Your relationship with God and your relationships with people are directly related. Heritage has many opportunities for its members to engage with and help people who are marginalized in society. Is there a group or a ministry you can serve with at the church?

7. How can we live out the Golden Rule? Listen and Learn. *My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry.* James 1:19 (CEV). It is easy to dislike someone who disagrees with what you say, but how can you work through conflict in a way that honors God?

8. How can we live out the Golden Rule? Embrace the risk. *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters* 1 John 3:16 (NIV). There has been criticism of the people who stand by to record events instead of helping the person being harmed. The other side of that concern is if there is no video or evidence of the event, there is a risk that justice would not be served. Pastor Jeff often says that God's love comes to you on its way to someone else. How do you show God's love to others?

9. Can you think of at least one person who needs to hear what you learned today? Who will you share this with?