

To the Church of Christ both locally and globally,

In the past few months three lives have been lost during the COVID-19 pandemic but not by the virus. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd's deaths beg our attention. Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down like an animal and shot to death because he was suspected of burglary. Breonna Taylor was shot to death by the police during a botched and unnecessary raid on her apartment. And most recently, George Floyd was murdered by a police officer during an arrest in which the officer placed his knee on Floyd's neck until he died. All three, Arbery, Taylor, and Floyd, were Black and to say that race was not a factor would be to ignore the blatant pattern that these murders follow. As individual Christians, and as the church of Christ, we need to call this what it is, injustice. We are called to fight injustice and to bring the love of Christ into every situation that we face whether it's racially motivated killings of unarmed Black, Hispanic, & Native American men and women, the vile predatory behavior of Bill Cosby, Harvey Weinstein, & Jeffrey Epstein, the separation & caging of immigrant children at the border, the rise in violent Anti-Semitism, or the inhumane conditions in our prison systems. When injustice rises up, the church should be the first to knock it back down again. We cannot be silent or passive right now. We must work for justice; it is our calling and obligation as disciples of Christ.

Learn *to do what is good.*

Pursue *justice.*

Correct *the oppressor.*

Defend *the rights of the fatherless.*

Plead *the widow's cause.*

Isaiah 1:17

Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed.

Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

“Justice is what love sounds like when it speaks in public.”

-Michael Eric Dyson

Thank you and may the grace and justice of Jesus be with you all,

Pastor Calvin W. Fergins, Jr.