



05 June 2020

Doxa Deo Statement

We feel compelled to respond to the recent events regarding the death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement officers in the USA. We are indeed filled with sadness, as we not only consider this horrific event, but as we lament how institutionally ingrained the evil of racism is still evident all over the world. Personally, I'm called to evaluate my own heart at this time. I am therefore obliged to come humbly into this dialogue, trusting that not only others, but I myself might find redemption in this moment of history.

Let us be clear - racism is evil, and even more so when it manifests in ways that suppresses the disempowered, bringing pain to people and creating brokenness in society at large. We grieve the painful reality that liberty and justice for all is not experienced equally across the world. We acknowledge the deep and painful history of profound inequality and systemic racism that has affected generations of people across the globe.

This injustice should trouble every follower of Jesus Christ, and if we do not speak out, it will be a noticeable silence. We are of the firm belief that where there is injustice, God's people must speak. Where there is brokenness, God's people must bring hope. Where there is pain, God's people must bring healing and restoration. We believe that our faith in Jesus and the proclamation of his gospel compels us to speak life, hope, and truth into the brokenness and pain experienced by those who suffer from this abuse in our communities.

While our hearts grieve, we desire to move from empathy to advocacy. We must all stand up to address this no matter how different our experiences or backgrounds are. As a ministry, we will continue to support and pursue reconciliation, to build bridges that would heal the hurt of the past, and to address current racial divides in our communities. We believe that unity is possible within the celebration of our diversity. We base this conviction in the common story of hope and reconciliation every follower of Jesus shares: we are equally included his life, death, and resurrection.

We recognize that there are systemic injustices in our world where the abuse of power manifests itself through civic and corporate society, and in this instance in particular, law enforcement. We are to lament when those in power lose perspective, no longer living up to their calling to serve, but assuming privilege and abusing their position for personal or political advantage.

We recognize the deep emotions that are finding expression at this time, and as the USA as a nation mourns it's brokenness, the global solidarity we see allows the people of the world to have a moment of reflection of their own context. We respect this as a moment to pause allowing for much needed introspection as humanity.

At the same time we are disappointed that there are people of various races with personal and political agendas that have marred this time with looting and riots, putting people's lives at risk, and disrespecting the property of others. We also grieve that some powerful world leaders are seemingly apathetic, having no regard for this symbolic moment in history.



As we consider our response as Christ followers, we are reminded by these words of Paul:

'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.' Rom 12:21, NKJV

Moving in the power of the opposite spirit may be the most powerful thing for Christians to engage their world within this season of global unrest. This is understanding our calling to be the faithful presence of Christ in our world. It is what Jesus was asking his disciples to go and represent as He sent them as *'lambs amongst wolves'*. Engaging in the 'opposite spirit' means representing the nature of Christ through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. We are representing the way of Love! We have been empowered with grace by the Holy Spirit to move in the very nature of God.

When we move in the opposite Spirit, others see the likeness of God in us. We are stepping into our royal DNA—our spiritual authority! We are children of God and are reflecting our Father's likeness, revealing the nature of Jesus Christ. By moving in the opposite spirit, we are creating a zone where God's kingdom is being manifested. Jesus is King of our lives, and we are bringing his rule into every situation where we release the way of heaven into our environment. *'As it is in heaven, it is now on earth'*.

Opposite-Spirit People

We work with Jesus in ushering in His kingdom when we function in the "opposite-spirit"

- *Responding to hate with love.*
- *Responding to anger as a peace maker*
- *Responding to divisions with reconciliation*
- *Responding to pride with humility.*
- *Responding to bitterness with forgiveness.*
- *Responding to self-centeredness with laying your life down.*
- *Responding to greed with generosity.*

We serve instead of wanting to be served, and we give instead of wanting to receive.

We bring light into darkness, and righteousness into depravity and corruption.

Let us pray, that in this time the church could rise to truly manifest and shine as lights in a very broken and pain filled world.

In his service,

Alan Platt

Founder and Visionary Leader of Doxa Deo