Sunday June 28, 2020

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- one impersonal issue that has become personal: a virus that threatens our health and economy.
- one personal issue that risks becoming impersonal: a festering wound that threatens the very fabric of our country.

Most difficult and important issues are fairly simple but rarely, if ever, simplistic. The complexity of these issues must be understood in order to gain the clarity that leads toward productive resolution. Most difficult and important issues are fairly simple but rarely, if ever, simplistic. The complexity of these issues must be understood in order to gain the clarity that leads toward productive resolution.

We need to have the inclination and the ability to seriously consider the merits of the various facets of these difficult issues, even when they threaten to diminish our own preferred personal perspective. If we fail to gain a broad and balanced understanding of any given issue, we guarantee not only an inadequate and ineffective resolution, but also the alienation of those who see the value of the truths embedded in the opposing or unpopular views. If we fail to gain a broad and balanced understanding of any given issue, we guarantee not only an inadequate and ineffective resolution, but also the alienation of those who see the value of the truths embedded in the opposing or unpopular views.

Therefore, it is essential that we define the nonnegotiable truths that frame the issues as to scope and importance.

My responsibility, and yours, is to help discover, embrace and live out **Biblical non-negotiable truths** so that God can paint a portrait on the canvas of your lives and your community that reveals and boldly proclaims

the glory and the beauty of God's blueprint

for what life is supposed to be like.

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Know who the real opposition is.....

10 Finally,

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers,

against the authorities,

against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

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14 Stand therefore,

having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet,

having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances

take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. 14 Stand therefore,

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To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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To that end ...being Spirit filled, standing firm, fully armed, praying

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