

Sunday

July 5, 2020

Two profoundly disruptive ‘issues’ have been stacked on top of another...

- **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.

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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.

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Therefore, it is essential that we define the non-negotiable 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 our lives and our 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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Sin ruins everything.

Words and deeds that violate
any Biblical non-negotiable truth
guarantees
inevitable and tragic consequences
that will prove to have
destructive and lasting impact.

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Exodus 21:16

Whoever steals a man and sells him,
and anyone found in possession of him,
shall be put to death.

1 Timothy 1:8-10

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, those who defile themselves with one another, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

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- No more Africans were legally brought to the United States for the purpose of slavery after 1808.
- Approximately 300,000 Africans were imported to this country before 1776.... nearly 600,000 would be eventually.

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- By the time of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and then the 13th Amendment in 1865, there were approximately 4,000,000 Africans enslaved in America.
- Slavery provided a cheap labor force that helped fuel the economic engine of the country, primarily in the Southern states and secondarily in the Northern states.

- Presidential Election of 1876 tragically brought 'reconstruction' to an end:

Rutherford Hayes (Ohio)- Republican
Samuel Tilden (New York)- Democrat

Tilden won the popular vote.....

Electoral College.....Tilden had 184.....Hayes 165

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Compromise of 1877: (a corrupt back room political deal) awarded the 20 votes to Hayes if the Republicans would agree to withdraw federal troops from the South, effectively ceding power in the Southern states to the Democratic Redeemers, who proceeded to disenfranchise black voters thereafter.

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“The new constitution has put at rest forever all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institutions—African slavery as it exists among us— the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution. (*Thomas*) Jefferson, in his forecast, had anticipated this, as the ‘rock upon which the old Union would split.’ He was right. What was conjecture with him, is now a realized fact. But whether he fully comprehended the great truth upon which that rock stood and stands, may be doubted.

The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old Constitution were, that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with; but the general opinion of the men of that day was, that, somehow or other, in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away...

Those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the idea of a Government built upon it— when the ***'storm came and the wind blew, it fell'***.

Our new Government (*the Confederacy*) is founded upon
exactly the opposite ideas;
its foundations are laid,
its cornerstone rests,
upon the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man;
that slavery,
subordination to the superior race,
is his natural and moral condition.”

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Since then, a relatively short 150 years, we all have been trying to figure out how to resolve the complex problems that swirl in and out of the racial tensions of our day....
some with noble intentions....
and some filled with hatred and prejudice.

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Wrestle deeply with the complex issues that are swirling around us not only in our society but in our hearts.

The Color of Compromise

Mondays from 7:30-9pm

Starting August 3rd

Led by Tom and Maggie Pruden

Sign up online at:
QuestChurchSTL.org



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Wrestle deeply with the complex issues that are swirling around us not only in our society but in our hearts.

Pray (2-1-1) for racial reconciliation, for the healing of a wound whose scab keeps getting torn off, for us to set the pace of loving our neighbor.