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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The racial conflict in America is in part rooted in the fact that our country unfortunately, foolishly, and volitionally

The racial conflict in America is in part rooted in the fact that our country unfortunately, foolishly, and volitionally

violated a Biblical non-negotiable,

The racial conflict in America is in part rooted in the fact that our country unfortunately, foolishly, and volitionally

violated a Biblical non-negotiable,

and as a result
guaranteed
inevitable and tragic consequences
that have proven to have a
destructive and lasting impact.

Exodus 21:16

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

I Timothy 1:8-10

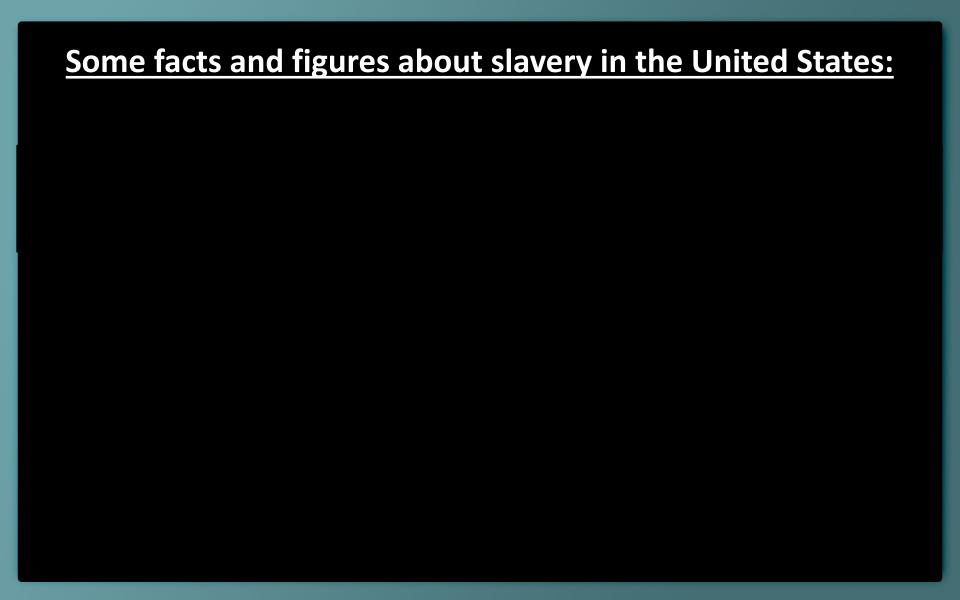
Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, 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.

I 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 immeral, those who defile themselves with one another, enslavers, lars, perjurers, and whatever else is centrary to sound doctrine,

in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.



• The first African "indentured servants" were brought to America in 1619.

- The first African "indentured servants" were brought to America in 1619.
- The first legal action that codified lifelong slave status was in 1654 when John Casor was awarded to Anthony Johnson, a former black indentured servant in the Virginian colony.

- The first African "indentured servants" were brought to America in 1619.
- The first legal action that codified lifelong slave status was in 1654 when John Casor was awarded to Anthony Johnson, a former black indentured servant in the Virginian colony.
- 1662 Virginian law adopted the view of identifying all children as being in the same status as their mother rather than their father (as practiced in England).

- The first African "indentured servants" were brought to America in 1619.
- The first legal action that codified lifelong slave status was in 1654 when John Casor was awarded to Anthony Johnson, a former black indentured servant in the Virginian colony.
- 1662 Virginian law adopted the view of identifying all children as being in the same status as their mother rather than their father (as practiced in England).
- No more Africans were legally brought to the United States for the purpose of slavery after 1808.

- The first African "indentured servants" were brought to America in 1619.
- The first legal action that codified life long slave status was in 1654 when John Casor was awarded to Anthony Johnson, a former black indentured servant in the Virginian colony.
- 1662 Virginian law adopted the view of identifying all children as being in the same status as their mother rather than their father (as practiced in England).
- 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.

 Approximately 6 million Africans were enslaved in the Western Hemisphere during the 18th century alone.....the majority were sent to Brazil.....and then the Caribbean.

- Approximately 6 million Africans were enslaved in the Western Hemisphere during the 18th century alone.....the majority were sent to Brazil.....and then the Caribbean.
- Strangely enough, there were nearly 4,000 free black slave owners of over 12,000 slaves in the United States.

- Approximately 6 million Africans were enslaved in the Western Hemisphere during the 18th century alone.....the majority were sent to Brazil.....and then the Caribbean.
- Strangely enough, there were nearly 4,000 free black slave owners of over 12,000 slaves in the United States.
- 40,000 100,000 slaves were transported to freedom on the 'Underground Railroad' in the 1830's.

- Approximately 6 million Africans were enslaved in the Western Hemisphere during the 18th century alone.....the majority were sent to Brazil.....and then the Caribbean.
- Strangely enough, there were nearly 4,000 free black slave owners of over 12,000 slaves in the United States.
- 40,000 100,000 slaves were transported to freedom on the 'Underground Railroad' in the 1830's.
- 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.

- Approximately 6 million Africans were enslaved in the Western Hemisphere during the 18th century alone.....the majority were sent to Brazil.....and then the Caribbean.
- Strangely enough, there were nearly 4,000 free black slave owners of over 12,000 slaves in the United States.
- 40,000 100,000 slaves were transported to freedom on the 'Underground Railroad' in the 1830's.
- 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
Four states were unresolved......20 votes in the balance.

• 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
Four states were unresolved......20 votes in the balance.

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.

1861, Alexander Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy.... explaining the difference in the Constitutions of both sides.....

1861, Alexander Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy.... explaining the difference in the Constitutions of both sides.....

"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."

For 250 years (1619-1865) this "peculiar institution", which was actually a profound degradation of the sacred image of God and a profound violation of His nonnegotiable values and truth, was allowed to flourish in this country impacting 4 million African Americans.

For 250 years (1619-1865) this "peculiar institution", which was actually a profound degradation of the sacred image of God and a profound violation of His nonnegotiable values and truth, was allowed to flourish in this country impacting 4 million African Americans.

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 hated and prejudice.

It is our responsibility

to discover, embrace, and live out
Biblical non-negotiable truth
so that

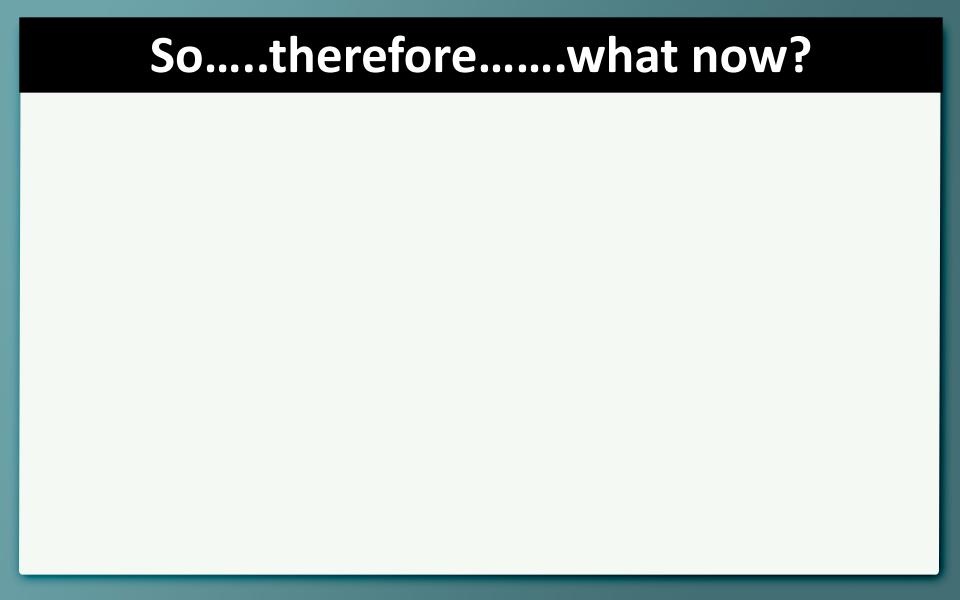
God can paint a portrait on the canvas of our lives and our community that which reveals and boldly proclaims the glory and the beauty of His blueprint for what life is supposed to be like.

It is our responsibility to discover, embrace, and live out Biblical non-negotiable truth so that

God can paint a portrait on the canvas of our lives and our community that which reveals and boldly proclaims the glory and the beauty of His blueprint for what life is supposed to be like.

It is our responsibility to discover, embrace, and live out Biblical non-negotiable truth so that

God can paint a portrait on the canvas of our lives and our community that which reveals and boldly proclaims the glory and the beauty of His blueprint for what life is supposed to be like.



Personally build bridges with people who don't look like you on the outside but on the inside are just like you.

Personally build bridges with people who don't look like you on the outside but on the inside are just like you.

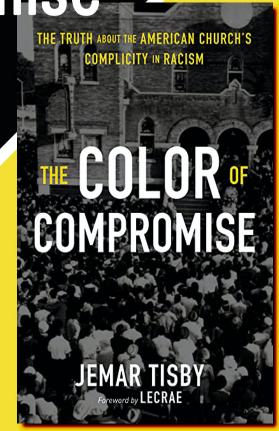
Wrestle deeply with the complex issues that are swirling around us not only in our society but in our hearts.

The Color of Compromise

Mondays from 7:30-9pm Starting August 3rd

Led by Tom and Maggie Pruden

Sign up online at: QuestChurchSTL.org



Personally build bridges with people who don't look like you on the outside but on the inside are just like you.

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.