

Letter from Pastor Gary - June 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

Few would deny that our world is a fractured, fearful place. Physically, we are in the midst of a pandemic that we struggle to understand; economically, there are mountains of debt, unemployment and uncertainty; and racially our nation is fractured, highlighted by the unspeakably brutal death of George Floyd. Every honest person knows racism is wrong. But these issues of brutality and murder matter even more than our culture is willing to accept. The sanctity of human life is bound up in the fact that all men are made in the image of God. Therefore, murder in all of its forms—killing, racism, hatred — is an assault on the image of God. So it is written, if you take any man's life, you forfeit your own life because every life is made in the image of God (see Gen. 9:6; 1 Jn 3:15; Mt 5:21-22). Yes, black lives matter; it is impossible for it to be otherwise. God cares. God made us. God loves those who have been tragically killed. And God expects us as His children to pour ourselves out to do justice for all that are oppressed, including the poor, the fatherless, the homeless, the hungry, the immigrant, the prisoner, the widow, and the unborn.

Micah 6:8 (ESV) He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? God has told us what He expects.

We can't fix the world. We can't create a society where every person flourishes. That's the new heaven and the new earth. But if we have a vital relationship with God, we will care about the poor and the oppressed and will pour ourselves out to do justice for them as an expression of our relationship with a God who self-identifies as a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows (Ps. 68:5). Therefore, He commands us:

Is. 1:17 Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Is. 58:6-7 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the chains of injustice, to untie the cords of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Jas. 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. May God help us to do good and seek justice, even in small ways, whenever and wherever we can.

Reopening

We know you are eager to return to FBC. Your pastors miss you and want to see you again! The leaders are thoughtfully and prayerfully considering how and when to reopen our building. Pray for us as we seek wise counsel and the leading of the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, we will

continue to provide excellent online services and many opportunities to stay connected through our online communities.

Upcoming Services

Spanish Service (9:00 AM): "The Testimony of Faith" Acts 20:13-24 Pastor Adolfo Ocampo

Watch Live at www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/

Chinese Service (11:00 AM): "The Assurance of Faith-The Resurrection of Christ"

1 Cor. 15:12-26 Hing-Tack Chen Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/

English Service (11:00 AM): "Eradicating the Pandemic of Racism"

Luke 4:16-21 Pastor Aaron Chan Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/

Choosing Faith over Fear!

Pastor Gary