

389 “Make headway in your own house”

The recent murder of black George Floyd by a white policeman in Minneapolis continues to fuel worldwide black-versus-white demonstrations over the issues of slavery and discrimination.

We noted from God’s Word last time that each one of us is made “in the image of God”, and that He has made us all of one race and of one blood (egs., / Genesis 1.26-27 / Genesis 3.20 & 9.19 / Acts 17.26a / Romans 5.12ff / I Corinthians 15.22,47).

Within this single human race we now have different sub-groups that have developed since Babel (Genesis 9.19 & 11.9), which are mistakenly seen these days as different races. The angry charge of “Racist!”, shouted across supposed racial divides which do not exist, is therefore plain silly; instead the accusation can be “Sub-groupist!”, which does not quite have the same force!

Legitimate grievances between human sub-groups must of course be honestly dealt with, but the validity of such grievances can be masked by the adoption of a “victimhood” mindset. In brief, this mindset assumes that everything wrong in Group A has been caused by Group B, so Group B must say Sorry and put everything right for Group A.

We see this “victimhood” approach being used by black people, under the “Black Lives Matter” slogan (BLM), against “the whites” in America and Europe, (but not against Muslim nations which were just as involved in African slavery as anywhere else; this selective targetting by BLM is worth pondering). Victimhood is also used by Palestinians, Muslims in non-Muslim societies, homosexual and feminist lobby groups, and on a smaller scale by a fair few single mothers when given two minutes on television.

In the face of this victimhood anger, many governments, in horror at being called “racist”, rush to oblige: Yes, history must be erased, positive discrimination must prevail, and yet more public money must be spent on the victims’ grievances, be these genuine or not.

But there is much more to what is happening than meets the eye, (Ephesians 6.12 comes to mind), and at its heart lies a widespread refusal to accept personal responsibility and accountability for one’s circumstances. Candace Owens, a young, articulate black American woman, researched the lifestyle and violent criminal record of George

Floyd and concluded – “We are the only community demanding justice for those of our community who are up to no good ... No matter your colour, if you do stupid things, you win stupid prizes ... We have to teach our kids better ... George Floyd is not my martyr”.

Another commentator said – “Per FBI statistics, a policeman in America is approximately 18 times more likely to be killed by a young black male than the other way around ... We have a policing problem because a much larger problem exists out there at large, i.e., avoidance, even denial, of addressing real causes, such as massive out-of-wedlock births among the black American community, a victim-oriented mentality fostered and encouraged by the Left ... the continual running down of America ... a nation that has gone to extraordinary lengths over the past half century to correct its wrongs of the past ...”.

BLM has been identified as “basically a Marxist-Leninist organization, founded by self-styled communists, that uses black suffering as a prop for its larger goals. It says nothing about freeing black people from the social pathologies that truly keep them down: unwed motherhood, fatherless homes, dependence on government, horrible inner-city schools, gangs, drug-infested neighborhoods, black-on-black crime, and massive abortion rates”. Roman J Israel, a longstanding black civil-rights activist, identifies the solution very simply - “Make headway in your own house”: no matter anyone’s skin-colour, the parental home remains the key.

The valid grievances within and between the various human sub-groups need to be addressed, for we are all fallen sinners in need of forgiveness and salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone (egs., John 14.6 / 1 Timothy 2.5-6). We have scriptural examples of such addressing in the frequent Old Testament teaching over care for “orphans, widows, the poor and the stranger” (see Concordance), and in Acts 6.1-6 over the “Grecians and the Hebrews” (KJV). But other grievances are not so valid and should be courteously but firmly exposed as such, despite being fanned by “victimhood”, media hype and hidden activists with their subversive goals. Much God-given wisdom is needed to distinguish between the valid and the in-valid grievance.

When all is said and done, God’s Word still holds good, such as: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength ... Thou shalt love your neighbour as yourself ... Love one another, as I have loved you ... Recompense to no man evil for evil ... If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (from Deuteronomy

6.5 / Leviticus 19.18 / Mark 12 29-31 / John 15.12,17 / Romans 12.17a-18).

Such teaching is hardly “breaking news” is it?!

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