



April 20, 2021

BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST SCUAD

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14:27

Dear brothers and sisters,

On April 20, in the case of Derek Chauvin, a verdict of guilty of three different charges was handed down by the jury. This has been a long and emotional journey for Mr. Floyd's family, Mr. Chauvin's family and many others who are hurt or upset. We as Christians, mourn with those who mourn. The loss of a loved one and member of a community in any circumstance is often painful.

The killing of George Floyd and the trial of Derek Chauvin have, and the verdict probably will, stir up many strong emotions. We empathize with the fact that our brothers and sisters who identify most closely with George Floyd, especially our African-American brothers and sisters, and brothers and sisters of color generally will carry the heaviest emotional burden. We urge our brothers and sisters who do not carry that burden to reach out and offer comfort and support as Jesus would.

This is a good reminder for us that our enemy is never flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12) and it's Satan's goal to divide us, let's not give him that power. Even during confusing, hurtful, and difficult times we are still called to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) and ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). The pursuit of peace in the Kingdom includes seeking justice and speaking up for what is right (Luke 4:18). It also includes being tender hearted, empathetic and not retaliating with insults (1 Peter 3:8). There is no greater honor and higher calling than to be a Christian.

We would like to suggest a few actions that we can take during this challenging time.

- Pray for peace in our nation.
- Pray for the family and friends of Mr George Floyd in their loss.
- Pray for Mr. Derek Chauvin, for God's mercy and transformation in his life.
- Empathize and pray with those who may have been impacted by the trial in our fellowship and our community.
- Listen to someone who may be experiencing some form of marginalization and work towards racial harmony.

Finally, we want to appeal to you, to maintain a Kingdom perspective. We live in a fallen world and much of what we experience, according to our Lord, is of our enemy. Though it is challenging, let's strive to view the world through a Kingdom lens. Not a racial, political or social lens but through the eyes of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With love and respect,
The BCC SCUAD TEAM