

A Proposal to Make Juneteenth a National Holiday

Saturday June 19th, 2021 is recognized as Juneteenth in the United States, however it is not a National Holiday. I believe that culture starts in the church and so I am proposing that the church make a formal recognition by setting aside the Sunday after Juneteenth to encourage members to make this into a national holiday in remembrance of the complete end of slavery in the United States of America, to remember their own freedom from the slavery to sin bought by Jesus Christ on the cross, and to rebuke those who would continue to cling to a Southern “culture” mired in evil that wishes to continue to honor Confederate soldiers and the Confederate states which existed and acted contrary to everything that is good and Godly, and everything this country was founded on which is summarized as the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Psalm 119:21

Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Not a single Southern slaveholder ever felt the sting of a whip on their back by an African slave owner. Not a single Southern slaveholder was ever embroiled in battle with an African over life or property before enslaving them. Not a single Southern slaveholder was wronged by an African before enslaving them and ripping them from their family. Not a single Southern slaveholder believed it would be right for them or their family or their friends or their neighbors to be a slave to an African.

Luke 6:31

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Matthew 25:40

Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

I believe a fitting reminder for people is God’s word from Jeremiah 34:8-21 which explains what happens when God’s people abandon the preaching of liberty to their brothers, their sisters and their neighbors. And who is our brother, our sister and our neighbor?

Matthew 12:46-50

46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Luke 10:25-37

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Jeremiah 34:8-21

8 This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the Lord, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them; 9 That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maidservant, being an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should serve himself of them, to wit, of a Jew his brother. 10 Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let them go. 11 But afterward they turned, and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids.

12 Therefore the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 13 Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying, 14 At the end of seven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear. 15 And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name: 16 But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom he had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids.

17 Therefore thus saith the Lord; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. 18 And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof, 19 The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf; 20 I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth.

21 And Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you.

We were all slaves to sin but no longer.

Romans 6

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are still an aggrieved county living in the sins of the past, putting them on a pedestal. We should not be memorializing the sin Christ Jesus died to free us from. I believe it is the duty of the church to serve the poor and the downtrodden.

Psalm 82:3

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

There are hundreds of monuments to the Confederate oppressors in public squares around the country, which I believe the church should work to peaceably remove through the teachings of love, mercy and liberty and bring glory to God that we are all free at last. We should honor the abolitionists, the ministers, the philosophers, the artists, the industrialists and the scientists who work to improve the human condition.

I believe the church is in the best position to bring people together in their communities to shine a light on the monuments to ignorance and evil and preserve the dignity of those who know better and want better for their country. For these monuments to come down, hearts must change. Each community needs to determine what peaceful means there is to remove these ridiculous things or what laws or people are protecting them that must first be overcome.

Evil ideas should find no home or comfort in a church which is guided by the love, mercy, justice, grace and liberty found in Christ Jesus. The freedom of a country may be judged by the evil we are allowed to display in the public square, but the health of society is rightly judged by the evil we choose to display in the public square. We should no more will to display a confederate than any other villain of history. Ultimately it is the will that is the problem and the church is in the position to reach the hearts through God's Truth and change the will of people.

The problems in this country are many locks on a door. It may be tempting to dismiss each lock individually as it will not open the door, but they must all eventually be addressed.

I hope that you find this letter fruitful and compelling and that together, we can begin the work,

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