

The Proper Response, Part 02

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered 6/7/2020

Introduction Summary

This is the second part of our lesson, The Proper Response, with reference to the murder of George Floyd. It is my responsibility to present to you the truth and what the proper Christian response should be. Regardless of his past, Mr. Floyd should not have been murdered. Therefore, as an elder of the church, I'm presenting to you wisdom from the word of God.

- I. The population of the United States is 325 million. According to FBI Statistics, in 2019 there were 10.5 million arrests (3.2% of the population).
 - A. 1,004 people were shot and killed by police (0.0003%, less than 1%). 371 were White, 236 Black, 158 Hispanic (Blacks and Hispanics combined: 394). There were 239 unknown. 961 were male and 43 were female.
 - B. Thus, people of all races have been shot and killed by officers.
- II. An unarmed person may, with justification, be subject to lethal force.
 - A. A perpetrator can overpower the officer.
 - B. A perpetrator can attempt to take the officer's weapon with intent to murder.
 - C. There were 2,085 murders by strangulation, hands, fists, feet, blunt objects and other weapons, reported in 2018.
 1. With a knife, the average male can cover 21 feet in 1.5 seconds.
 2. Hitting a moving target in a fight is next to impossible.
 3. In 2018, forty-one unarmed people were killed by police: 20 White, 10 Black, 6 Hispanics, 4 other, 1 unknown.
- III. Let every person be subject to authority (Rom. 13:1).
- IV. Blacks and Hispanics make up 29.5% of the population.
- V. Defunding the police officers is not scriptural.
- VI. From 2000-2015, the African-American homicide rate was 20.1 per 100,000. That's three times the rate of Hispanics at 6.4 and over seven times the rate of Whites at 2.7.
 - A. 94% of the murders of Black individuals were committed by other Blacks.
 - B. It's not the tool one uses. It's not poverty. It's the condition of the heart.
 - C. George Floyd was killed because that officer's heart was dark.
- VII. In 2019, eighty-nine police officers were killed in the line of duty.
 - A. 41 were by accidents.
 - B. There were 48 through felonious acts: 44 by firearms, 34 by handguns, 7 by rifles, 1 by a shotgun, 2 were not reported; 4 were run over by vehicles.

- C. Many officers who have been convicted of unlawfully killing unarmed individuals are currently incarcerated. But they're not reporting that.
- VIII. We want "colorblind justice." Right is right and wrong is wrong.
- IX. These are areas where reform is needed.
- A. Prosecutors must have repercussions for withholding information: In last 10 years, hundreds of innocent African Americans have been released from jail.
 - B. There are currently no repercussions for false accusation. A New York White woman falsely accused a man of attacking her. His video saved his life.
 - C. Police misconduct: This is a small percentage, usually, repeat offenders.
 - D. Blue line and blue cover must stop.
 - E. Police unions: They insure fair treatment, but sometimes they go overboard.
 - F. Longer/stiffer jail sentences for all races for the same crime.
 - G. Prosecutors don't take action unless there's a video.
 - H. Authorities need to show the public why there was a delay in actions against the officers involved with George Floyd's murder.
 - I. Being stopped while driving black must end.
- X. Discrimination is not new.
- A. A woman was discriminated against, as seen in John 8:1-11.
 - B. Discrimination is not unique to the United States.
 - C. We should not allow our flesh to be in control (Gal. 6:7-9).
 - D. We will not go before God *as a group*, but *individually* (Rom. 14:10-13).
 - E. The U.S. is still the best place to be for freedom and opportunity.
- XI. What is the answer?
- A. The answer is not violence, looting and stealing. Those things are sin, not love.
 - B. The answer is God's love (1 Cor. 13:4-8 Amp.).
 - 1. Love sees every individual as valuable and precious, whether inside or outside the womb. Every life matters.
 - 2. God loves the world. We must spread the gospel (John 3:16, Mark 16:15).
- XII. We must spread the gospel and work together as one (John 10:10, Mar. 3:25).

Closing Summery

America is the engine that keeps the world safe. It's the place that sends out more ministries than any other country. With all of her flaws, America is still the best place on the planet to live. However, we must speak the truth. Without the truth, we can get into the enemy's territory and become worse off. We shouldn't throw out the baby with the dirty bath water. Let's not advance untrue narratives. Rather, get understanding before we make a judgment. Then, fix what needs to be fixed. And pray for all those in authority so we may lead a quiet and peaceful life.