

BLACK LIVES MATTER EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

- *Black Lives Matter* (BLM) began with the hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) on social media in 2013 after George Zimmerman was acquitted of murdering Trayvon Martin
- It gained traction in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown (resulting in civil unrest in Ferguson, near St. Louis) and Eric Garner in New York City
- Since then, it has grown in popularity and power, becoming a nationally organized movement which promotes non-violent civil disobedience to protest police brutality against African Americans
- Most notably, it became prominent in national headlines with the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis

BIBLICAL REASONS BLM'S DESIRE FOR EQUALITY IS GOOD

- Although BLM is not a Christian organization, there are a number of biblical reasons why the desire for equality is right and good

The Imago Dei in All People

Genesis 1:26-27 ~ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 5:1 ~ This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Genesis 9:6 ~ Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

- All people, regardless of sex, skin color, nationality, etc., are made in the image of God
- "This speaks of the creation of Adam in terms that are uniquely personal...It establishes a personal relationship between God and man that does not exist with any other aspect of creation...He has no personal relationship with any of those things in the same sense He does with humanity. All those things were created by God through His fiat decree, and they began to exist because He ordered them to. But there is never a hint of any intimacy or personal identification between God and those things. God's relationship with humanity is unique in all of creation."¹
- The image of God in man involves the ability to:
 1. Bear the Creator's Image – i.e. to be personal, to have a moral consciousness, a consciousness of others, a consciousness about God; to reflect the incommunicable attributes of God
 2. Propagate Life – i.e. to be fruitful and multiply, to procreate
 3. Receive Divine Blessing – i.e. to be the recipients of God's kindness and well-being
 4. Rule Creation – i.e. to exercise dominion over the rest of God's creation
- We all have God's stamp, His imprimatur, on us!

¹ John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginnings*, 159-60.

The Sinfulness of Racism

Acts 17:26 ~ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

- Theologically, there is only one race...the human race
- Although there are different cultures and ethnicities, there are not different races of people
- Thus, to treat people on the basis of their “race” is sinful and contrary to God’s design for human relationships
- The concept of “race” is a social construct that contradicts a biblical anthropology
- Christ came to destroy all forms of the sin of racism:

Galatians 3:28 ~ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:13-14 ~ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

- Even the early church recognized the sinfulness of racism and the threat it poses:

Acts 6:1-4 ~ Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The Impartiality of God

- God does not favor certain groups, classes, or ethnicities of people over others

Acts 10:34 ~ Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,

Romans 2:9-11 ~ There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

Galatians 2:6 ~ But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

Ephesians 6:9 ~ And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

1 Peter 1:17 ~ If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth

- It is impossible for God to be anything but impartial because He is inherently just

The Death of Christ for All Ethnicities

Revelation 5:9 ~ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 7:9 ~ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

- Jesus died to save people from every ethnic group
- His death was not specifically for a certain ethnic group nor did it purposefully exclude certain nationalities
- As a result, the church is a multiethnic body that is one in Christ, a truly unified diversity
- In fact, believers have more in common with fellow believers of other ethnicities as a result of Christ's work than they do with unsaved family members or people of the same nationality who don't know Christ
- The unity believers supernaturally experience transcends any natural unity based on ethnicity
- "Think about it. In Christ, we are closer to one another than to an identical twin, if that person does not trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Christ has made us one. He has created a new man, a new community, a new race of people, called the church."²

BLM BELIEFS WHICH VIOLATE THE STANDARDS OF GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Transgenderism

- BLM is unapologetic about its approval of those who claim to be transgender:
 - *"We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead."*
 - *"We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence."*³
- "cisgender" (*cis* = "on the same side as") refers to those whose gender matches their anatomical and biological sex determined by God at birth
- By working to "dismantle cisgender privilege," those in BLM deny the fact that God has created each individual either male or female:

Genesis 1:27 ~ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Matthew 19:4 ~ And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE

- Thus, since gender was created and determined by God, to oppose biological gender is to oppose the very design of God
- "We see the profound tension between God's design and Satan's attacks on this design. The Lord created man and woman and gives them specific roles to play for His glory; Satan targets man and woman and induces them to upend God's design. God orders and structures; Satan tears down. God brings life; Satan destroys it. These tragic patterns are as old as the earth. They are not new, but they do morph with the times."⁴

² H.B. Charles, "The Peaceful Solution to Racial Unity" in *A Biblical Answer for Racial Unity* (Kress Biblical Resources, 2017), 38.

³ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

⁴ Owen Strachan, "Transgender Identity—Wishing Away God's Design," <https://answersingenesis.org/family/gender/transgender-identity-wishing-away-gods-design/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Embracing of Homosexuality

- BLM rejects God’s standard of marriage by its wholesale acceptance of homosexuality:
 - *“We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).”*⁵
- Contrary to BLM doctrine, “heteronormative” is the way God designed marriage, namely one man, one woman, becoming one flesh, for life

Genesis 2:24 ~ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- Rejecting a “heteronormative” understanding of marriage and embracing homosexuality as legitimate constitutes an outright denial of the Scripture’s condemnation of this sexual sin:

Leviticus 18:22 ~ You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Romans 1:27 ~ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

1 Corinthians 6:9 ~ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1 Timothy 1:8-10 ~ But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for...10 immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

Rejection of God’s Design for the Family

- BLM rejects the nuclear family structure:
 - *“We make our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We dismantle the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work ‘double shifts’ so that they can mother in private even as they participate in public justice work.”*
 - *“We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and ‘villages’ that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.”*⁶
- God has defined the family as a place where a man and a woman are united in marriage and where children are raised under the gracious shepherding and care of a godly husband and wife who model His unique difference in roles
- The husband is to lovingly lead his family as the spiritual head of his home (Eph 5:25-33), a leading which is exercised by serving
- The wife is to willfully submit to her husband’s leadership (Eph 5:22; Col 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-6) and function as his helper (Gen 2:24)
- Children are to be reared in an environment of discipline and instruction in the things of the Lord (Deut 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Eph 6:4)
- In particular, fathers are to take the lead in shepherding and training their children (Prov 4:1-19)

⁵ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

⁶ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

- BLM seeks to overturn this “nuclear family structure”
- However, “[t]o oppose God’s orderly, caring nuclear family structure is to oppose God’s best for children and the human race. To reject God’s design for the family is an attack on God. And rejecting God’s design for the family will not be without consequences.”⁷
- Some of the adverse outcomes associated with fatherlessness: ⁸
 - Between 2014-2018, the share of families headed by single parents was 75% among African American families, 58% among Hispanic families, 37% among white families, and 21% among Asian families.
 - According to the latest Census Bureau data, 19.7 million children, more than one in four, live without a father in the home.
 - Among children who were part of the “post-war generation,” 87.7% grew up with two biological parents who were married to each other. Today, only 68.1% will spend their entire childhood in an intact family.
 - The consequences: 4 times greater risk of poverty, more likely to have behavioral problems, more likely to go to prison, more likely to commit crime, 7 times more likely to become pregnant as a teen, more likely to face abuse and neglect, more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, two times more likely to suffer obesity, two times more likely to drop out of high school.

Promotion of Abortion

- BLM is vehemently pro-abortion:
 - *“We deserve and thus we demand reproductive justice that gives us autonomy over our bodies and our identities while ensuring that our children and families are supported, safe, and able to thrive”*⁹

- To embrace abortion is to deny the fact that God considers all human life precious:

Genesis 1:27 ~ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- To embrace abortion is to deny the fact that God considers the unborn persons:

Psalms 51:5 ~ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalms 139:13-16 ~ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

Jeremiah 1:5 ~ Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

- To embrace abortion is to deny the fact that God commands the protection of human life:

Genesis 9:5-6 ~ Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man. “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”

⁷ Eric Davis, “A Biblical Analysis of the Black Lives Matter Organization,” https://thecripplegate.com/a-biblical-analysis-of-the-black-lives-matter-organization/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheCripplegate+%28The+Cripplegate%29, accessed July 9, 2020.

⁸ Mark Alexander, “The Cultural Consequences When Fathers Abandoned Children,” <https://patriotpost.us/alexander/71475-the-cultural-consequences-when-fathers-abandoned-children-2020-06-17>, accessed July 3, 2020.

⁹ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/responsestate-of-the-union/>

Exodus 20:13 ~ You shall not murder

- To embrace abortion is to participate in Satan’s murderous strategy:

John 8:44 ~ You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.

- Although BLM claims that black lives matter, their explicit support of abortion demonstrates that, in fact, they value black lives very little
- The greatest injustices committed against black people are not by law enforcement but abortion clinics
- “Abortion is the number one killer of black lives in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, abortion kills more black people than HIV, homicide, diabetes, accident, cancer, and heart disease...combined. In 2014, African-American women comprised 13.3% of the U.S. population, but black women had 36% of all abortions. Abortion kills 1,000 black babies every day in America.”¹⁰

Denunciation of Government and Civil Authorities

- BLM seeks the abolition of institutions that inflict violence on black people:
 - *“We demand acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police. We call for radical, sustainable solutions that affirm the prosperity of Black lives. We call for an end to the systemic racism that allows this culture of corruption to go unchecked and our lives to be taken. We call for a national defunding of police.”*¹¹
- For a number of reasons, BLM’s calls to defund the police is unbiblical:
 - Despite horrific treatment at the hands of Roman law enforcement, Jesus never responded to such injustices with protests or calls to oppose them. Instead, he knew that every earthly authority was established by God (John 19:11) and, therefore, instructed his followers to submit to it and to pay their taxes to it (Matt 22:21).
 - The apostles and disciples in the early church also experienced unjust treatment at the hands of civil authorities (Acts 4:3, 21; 5:18, 41; 8:1-3; 9:1-2). Yet, they also commanded and modeled submission to the government (Rom 13:1-6; 1 Tim 2:1-2; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:17).
 - Although human government is far from perfect, it is a divinely-ordained institution for the protection of its citizens (Rom 13:3-5).

CONCLUSION

- As believers, we recognize that racism is ungodly and sinful, a violation of the biblical principle that there is only one race, the human race
- We desire that all people are created in the image of God and thus should be treated with dignity, respect, and kindness
- However, we must not support the BLM organization because of the godless, Satanic, dangerous, and unbiblical ideologies it is built upon
- Although we must love those in the organization (and all black people), we cannot support or embrace the BLM movement
- In other words, we must distinguish between the fact that black lives matter and the organization
- And we must point those in the BLM movement to the God of the Bible and the true Gospel of Jesus Christ!

¹⁰ <https://www.grrtl.org/genocide/>

¹¹ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/defundthepolice/>