

PROFESSIONAL
CHURCH
WORKERS
Conference

Communion of Saints
simul iustus et peccator
Community of Sinners

**“Loving God: As Pastor, As
Layperson, In Pastoral Integrity”.**



Witness



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[White Christians Have Become Even Less Motivated to Address Racial Injustice](#)

One might assume that the events of 2020 have increased awareness of racial injustice in the United States and motivation to address it. But the story isn't so straightforward, new Barna research (conducted in partnership with Dynata) suggests. Yes, there are signs the past year has clarified how Americans think about racial injustice—but **that doesn't mean they see the issue, or their role within it, with greater urgency.** In the Church especially, there is a sense that people are doubling down on divides.

[Articles](#) [Research Releases](#) in [Culture & Media](#) in [Faith & Christianity](#) •
September 15, 2020





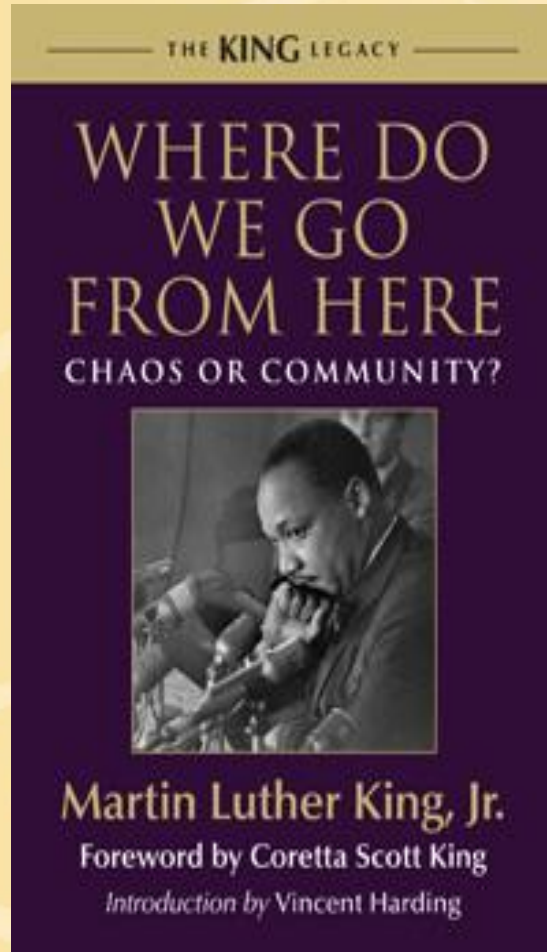
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From Dr. King's conclusion:

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with **the fierce urgency of now**. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity . . . This may well be mankind's last chance to choose between chaos or community.

Age Old Challenge – Faith, Equality, Education, Employment, Poverty, Housing



Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?

(Always present, of course, are the deepest questions of all:

Who are we?

Who are we meant to be?

How do we get there from here?



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The “2” Great Statements

On Race Relations - Racism and Racial Oppression

**JESUS REPLIED:
LOVE THE GOD
LORD YOUR
WITH YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND
THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT.
AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT:
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.
MATTHEW 23:37-39**



We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

(Thomas Jefferson)

- **Martin Luther's doctrine of the two kingdoms**

- Martin Luther's doctrine of the two kingdoms (or two reigns) of God teaches that God is the ruler of the whole world and that he rules in two ways, both by the law and by the gospel.
- God rules the earthly kingdom through secular government, by means of law and the sword. As Creator, God would like to promote social justice, and this is done through the political use of the law.
- At the same time, God rules his spiritual kingdom in order to promote human righteousness before God. This is done through the gospel, according to which all humans are justified by God's grace alone.



Rediscovering A Biblical Model of Humanity

Gen. 1:27 - The Sixth Day

...26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.” 27So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.28God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.



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Rediscovering A Biblical Model of Humanity Acts 17



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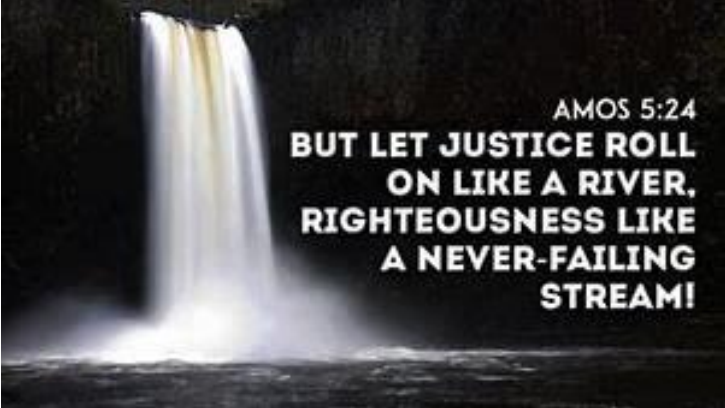
•²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

•²⁴ **“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth** and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ **From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.** ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, **‘We are his offspring.’**

•²⁹ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”



Rediscovering A Biblical Model of Humanity

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks, with white water and mist at the base.

AMOS 5:24
**BUT LET JUSTICE ROLL
ON LIKE A RIVER,
RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE
A NEVER-FAILING
STREAM!**



- Micah 6:8
 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

- Amos 5:24
 - But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

• John similarly records, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

Rediscovering The New Testament Church



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**A Great Call
(Luke 4:17-19)
to the Great Commitment
(Acts 1:8)
and the Great Commandment
(Matt. 22:34-40),
and the Great Compassion
(Matt. 9:35-38),
and the Great Compulsion
(Matt. 25:31-46),
equals a Great Commission Church
(Matt. 28:16:20).**

