

NICENE CREED EQUIVALENT ON BIBLICAL RACE RELATIONS

I. PREAMBLE. To maintain and advance a strong Christian church, Christian churches, organizations, leaders and all Christians must remain rock solid on following Biblical commands. God’s perfect moral authority is embraced in the Bible for Christians to follow and advocate for. Yet there is much Biblical corruption infiltrating the Christian churches from secular forces, from both the secular left and secular right. Many professed Christians are worshipping idols of political party, secular philosophies and strongholds of unrepentant sins. These corrupting secular forces include un-Biblical and destructive teachings on race relations in the Christian churches. These corrupting forces are contributing to a morally weakened Christian church. If we allow these corrupting forces to continue, the Christian church will be increasingly ineffective in confronting Satanic secular forces proliferating in American culture. As the Bible-believing Christian church becomes Biblically corrupted, especially on secular race relations issues, it becomes more challenging to reach lost people for Jesus Christ—especially justice-focused young adults. This may sadly limit the growth of mini-revivals.

II. BIBLICAL FOUNDATION. Christians need to be bold and relentless standing for the Christian Gospel and Biblical truth without fear, to build God’s kingdom effectively as commanded by The Great Commission—Matthew 28. Thus, we hereby RECOMMIT to the provisions of the Nicene Creed of 325 AD, as reaffirmed by the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD and the Council of Toledo in 589 AD. All these endorsed creeds predated the Christian reformation; thus, for denominational unity, we insert “universal” for “catholic” in our Nicene Creed endorsement. In addition, we affirm the basic Christian Gospel: Moral truth comes from God and His inerrant Word stated in the Bible, and that redemption from our sins (and we as sinners are separated from a perfect God) comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for all our sins, and conquered death via resurrection, and promises us eternal life in heaven and transformation in this life. Jesus Christ came to Earth as fully God and fully man. The Godhead of the Bible is manifested in three distinct persons: God the Father; Jesus Christ the son; and the Holy Spirit.

As Christians we COMMIT to promoting the Christian Gospel in association with every Christian ministry activity including race relations advocacy and actions. We also COMMIT to relying on the Bible as our sole source for all race related activities: Sola Scriptura. These are highlighted below.

III. BIBLICAL RACE RELATIONS PROVISIONS.

1. RACISM. We COMMIT to boldly denouncing racism in all its forms and taking other decisive actions against racism as appropriate. Racism is an egregious sin, and totally contrary to moral righteousness in the Bible. Given the tragic and egregious racial history in the USA, racism mostly impacts Blacks and people of color. However, racism—where there are expressions of hate, racial superiority or

deliberate exclusion--is to be opposed no matter which racial/ethnic groups are the perpetrators or aggressors. The commitment against racism also includes fighting against anti-semitism, as the Bible especially in the Old Testament displays God righteous intervention when Jewish people are under attack.

1 John 2: 11; James 2: 4; Numbers 12: 1-2; 1 Timothy 5: 21; Colossians 3:11, among many other Scriptures.

2. RACIAL INCLUSION AND REACHING ACROSS RACIAL LINES. We COMMIT to embracing God's love via the Holy Spirit, and reaching out in friendship and fellowship with people who are racially/ethnically different. This entails getting out of our racial comfort zones, where misconceptions, prejudices and division may fester. The Bible is very clear on racial inclusion. This means that we reject any policies that limit an organization or activity to certain racial/ethnic groups and exclude people on the basis of race/ethnicity. It also requires us to stand against racial segregation and advocating for more racial diversity and inclusion when we see voluntary or policy-directed segregation patterns.

Philippians 2: 3-4; Galatians 2; Acts 1: 1-48; Acts 8: 26-10; Luke 10: 25-37, among many other Scriptures.

3. RECONCILIATION. We COMMIT to be reconciled to our brothers and sisters. The Bible commands us to be reconciled to God, and thus also be reconciled to each other based on the power of our faith in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit working through us. This reconciliation includes being reconciled to each other across racial lines, especially when there has been mistreatment, hurts, or even misunderstanding. Reconciliation is not complete without attention to justice, as affirmed in Matthew 23: 23. Other components of reconciliation are humility, love, forgiveness, repentance and a common dedication to advancing the Gospel together.

Colossians 1: 20; Revelation 7:9; Ephesians 2: 11-22; Hebrews 12: 14; Matthew 5: 23-26, among many other Scriptures.

4. SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE. We COMMIT to opposing systemic injustices impacting race relations. The Bible contains countless passages on systemic injustice. This dispels the misconception that only individual acts of racism should be considered in Christian race relations. In conjunction with number 2 and 3 above, we must lovingly, across racial lines, seriously consider remaining systemic disparities or remaining inequities from current and previous race discrimination patterns, and prayerfully and Biblically advocate for reasonable solutions to systemic injustices.

Leviticus 19:15; Amos 5: 11-15; Isaiah 58: 1-10; Nehemiah 5; James 5: 1-5; Luke 4:18, among many other Scriptures.

5. UNITY. We COMMIT to promoting unity in the Body of Christ, across racial lines. Unity is both the intent and byproduct of Numbers 1-4 above. Failure to adhere to any or all the above 4 provisions fosters disunity and division and corrupts and weakens the Christian church. The Bible makes a clear distinction between the necessity of unity versus the inevitability of division. Unity applies to Bible-believing Christians of all backgrounds. But if we are unified under the Gospel, then Jesus said that there will be division—between our Christian world view and un-Biblical teachings. Jesus said that the division will even impact members of the same family. Thus, if we are united on the Gospel and Biblical teachings (including race relations), then we will have to distinguish our Christian world view from erroneous world views, and un-Biblical teachings. This reality is the impetus for number 7 below, as we are commanded to present the Gospel and Biblical teachings as a clear alternative to wrongdoing and bring wrongdoing into the light—Ephesians 5: 11.

Romans 12: 4-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 25; Ephesians 4: 1-6; Mark 3: 24-26; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, among many other Scriptures.

6. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. We COMMIT to pursuing restorative justice when there has been wrongdoing impacting a group of people. The Bible teaches us much about the importance of restorative justice. Restorative justice provisions are Biblical manifestations of God's moral authority and provide the foundation for the criminal and civil court systems in the USA and other civilized nations. If crimes are committed, people are sanctioned with fines, jail, etc. If people have been damaged in a civil way, they receive compensation. Repentance and forgiveness do not relieve the wrongdoer of consequences for their actions. Thus, in conjunction with number 4 above, addressing and evaluating systemic racial/ethnic wrongs triggers reasonable and measured discussions of mitigation of those wrongs. That would include adjustment of systemic policies and practices. People who say that there is no systemic racism in the USA dismiss credible independent studies of systemic injustice issues; defile the Christian church; promote racial division and continued hurt; weaken this great nation; and offend God.

Leviticus 6: 1-7; Exodus 22: 1-15; Luke 19: 1-10; Numbers 5: 5-7; 2 Samuel 12: 4-6, among other Scriptures.

7. COLOR BLINDNESS AND OTHER RACIAL HERESIES. We COMMIT to celebrating the beautiful mosaic of God's creation of different races, cultures and nationalities and reject teachings that we must be color blind, as well as other secular racial heresies. Color blindness is intellectually dishonest because, unless we are truly color blind, we notice race and color and make overt or covert decisions based on those race/color perceptions. The color blind philosophy is a racial heresy because it counters Biblical realities and teachings. The Bible does not sanitize or reject racial/ethnic identities in people. Throughout the Bible there are references to race, ethnicity, nationality, from Genesis 1: 26-27 and Genesis 11 up to Acts 17: 26 and Revelation 14:6. Biblical unity teachings are based on applying Body of

Christ (1 Corinthians 12) realities to race relations and show love and genuine concern for people from different backgrounds. The Bible is a morally perfect instructional manual on the loving and inclusive ways we are to interact with each other given our different races, ethnicities and nationalities.

We also reject racial heresies from the political left and right. Secular left heresies come from world views opposed to the Christian world view, and thus are heretical for the Christian church to adopt them. These include atheism, Neo-Marxism and Critical Race Theory (CRT). For instance, the Black Lives Matter organization advocates a world view opposed to Christianity, while the larger Black Lives Matter movement stands correctly and morally for equality and civil rights for Black people, and often has strong Christian underpinnings. Secular right heresy makes opposition to CRT a weapon against people lovingly and compassionately advocating for reasonable solutions to racism and racial injustices. The anti-CRT movement can manifest itself as mean spirited and racially inflammatory, as it often focuses on how CRT impacts White people, but dismisses discussions of racism and racial injustices impacting people of color, or discussions across racial lines to mitigate remaining racism and racial injustice, and promote diversity as a means to make people of all backgrounds feel included. This anti-CRT movement, originating from right wing politics, will often use code words such as “woke” to attack people standing for racial reconciliation and justice. The racial heresies described in #7 run counter to the need to focus on the Bible as the sole foundation for Christian race relations.

We, as followers of Jesus Christ and the Biblical world view on every issue including race relations, hereby support this Nicene Creed Equivalent on Christian Race Relations.