

The Chaos of Racism

A RESPONSE TO THE U.S. CRISIS



Marie Miller is the lead pastor of Pickering Pentecostal Church in Pickering, Ont.

What has happened in the USA not only affects America, but the whole world, as racism is global. Racism is accentuated in America because it has the ugliness of slavery behind it, but it is simply suppressed in Canada due to the disguise of immigration. Friends, be open to hearing the truth of others' real experiences without comparing their tragedies with incidents not relevant to the situation. Let us not stifle the voices of those in pain, as this, too, will cause more suffocation, echoing even in life the reality—"I can't breathe!"

There is only one true cure for racism. People who know God must rightfully respond to the instructions in the Word of God so they may effectively respond to people who are hurt, marginalized, living in pain and confusion, and seeing hopelessness.

Psalm 1 is a great reference point at this moment. It contrasts two kinds of people very vividly: those who love God and do what His Word says; and those who follow beliefs and behaviours that resist and reject God's authoritative Word and elevate the

dominance of humans. Every Christian still has the choice to determine which path is best for results in a world of chaos.

It is not just sympathy that is needed at this time. What's needed is *true empathy and love*.

There are two passages that sum up what Christians should do at this time:

*"... O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: **to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God**"* (Micah 6:8, NLT, emphasis added).

*"A second [commandment] is equally important: **'Love your neighbor as yourself'**"* (Matthew 22:39, NLT, emphasis added).

From a pastor who has experienced decades of racism first-hand but chooses to love *all* people equally, to walk in righteousness, and to live out Micah 6:8, both in word and in deed—I implore you, let us seek better for all people together!