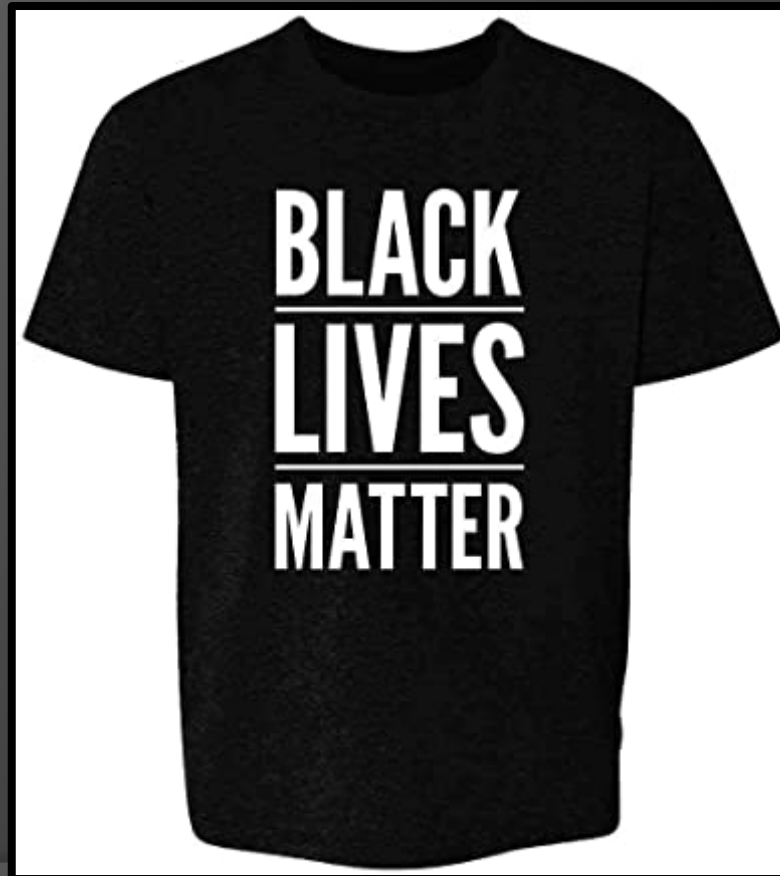


SPIRITUAL OBSERVATIONS ON



A Need for Caution AND Discussion

- ⦿ Highly polarized political environment overall
- ⦿ Highly divisive/emotional topic in particular depending on one's background/experiences
- ⦿ Dangers of misrepresentation, exaggeration, and the claims/actions of alleged leaders, supporters, and opponents
- ⦿ Many political movements have scriptural/spiritual elements (Women's Rights, Gay Rights, Abortion Rights, etc.)
 - This one is no exception

Introduction

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a decentralized movement in the United States advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality against African-American people. An organization known simply as Black Lives Matter exists as a decentralized network with about 16 chapters in the United States and Canada, while a larger Black Lives Matter movement exists consisting of various separate like-minded organizations ... The broader movement and its related organizations typically advocate against police violence towards black people, as well as for various other policy changes considered to be related to black liberation. ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter

Introduction

In July 2013, the movement began with the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin 17 months earlier, in February 2012. ... The movement returned to national headlines and gained further international attention during the global George Floyd protests in 2020 following Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. An estimated 15 million to 26 million people participated (though not all are "members" of the organization) in the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in the United States ... The movement has advocated to defund the police and invest directly into black communities and alternative emergency response models.

Civil Rights



☉ Citizens exercise 1st amendment rights

Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, ... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

☉ Paul exercised his civil rights under Roman law

- *Acts 22:25 Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?*
- *Acts 25:11 I appeal to Caesar*



Police Brutality



- Citizens concerned about excessive use of force



- Luke 3:14

- *Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely ...”*

- Eph. 6:9

- Masters “*threatening*” their servants



Riots



- Rioting, attacking police stations, injuring & killing the police (including black officers)



- Rom. 13:1ff

- *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.*

- Tit. 3:1

- *Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, ...*

- 1Pet. 2:13

- *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...*



Looting



- Smashing store windows and looting



- Rom. 13:9
 - You shall not steal*
- Eph 4:28
 - Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need*



Property Crimes



- ◉ Vandalism, looting, arson (including minority-owned store owners)



◉ Rom. 13:8-9

- *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments ... are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

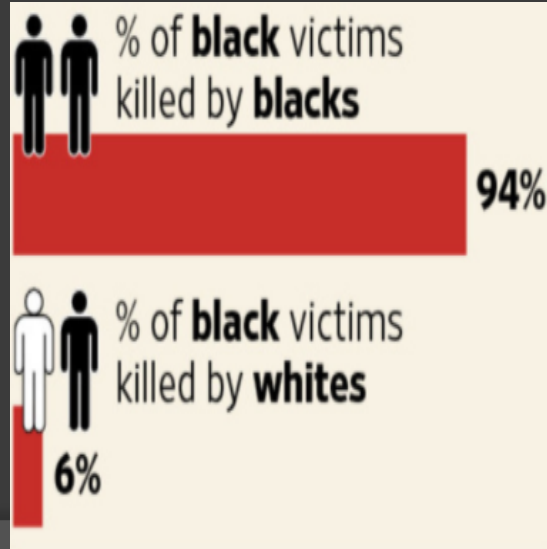


All Black Lives?



“We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter”

- Even when blacks kill blacks?



- Gen. 9:6

- *Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.*

- Rom. 13:9

- *You shall not murder*



All Black Lives?



“We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter”

- Even when black women kill (abort) their babies?

- Exodus 21:22,23

- Psa 106:38

- *And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood.*

- Rom. 13:9

- *You shall not murder*



All Black Lives?

THE
"NUMBER ONE KILLER"
IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS NOT

5,686

HIV DEATHS

8,206

HOMICIDES

11,934

DIABETES DEATHS

12,215

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

63,279

CANCER DEATHS

69,918

HEART DISEASE DEATHS

OR ANY OF THE 285,522

CAUSES OF ALL (ANNUAL) DEATHS COMBINED.

IT IS THE 363,705

DEATHS OF BLACK LIVES VIA ABORTION, ANNUALLY.

TOOMANYABORTED.COM/NUMBERONEKILLER



2008 CDC "FINAL DEATH DATA" <http://bit.ly/CDC-DEATHS>

TOO MANY ABORTED.COM

2008 GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE <http://bit.ly/2008MIDSTATS>

THE RADIANCE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

BY FIGHTING TO SAVE OUR VERY FUTURE—OUR POSTERITY.

Sexual Expression

We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, ... 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. 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)

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

Sexual Expression



“We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter”

- *We foster a queer-affirming network
...sexual identity...
gender expression*



● Gen. 1:27

- *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

● Rom. 1:26-27

- *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. ... the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another... shameful...*



The Family

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

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

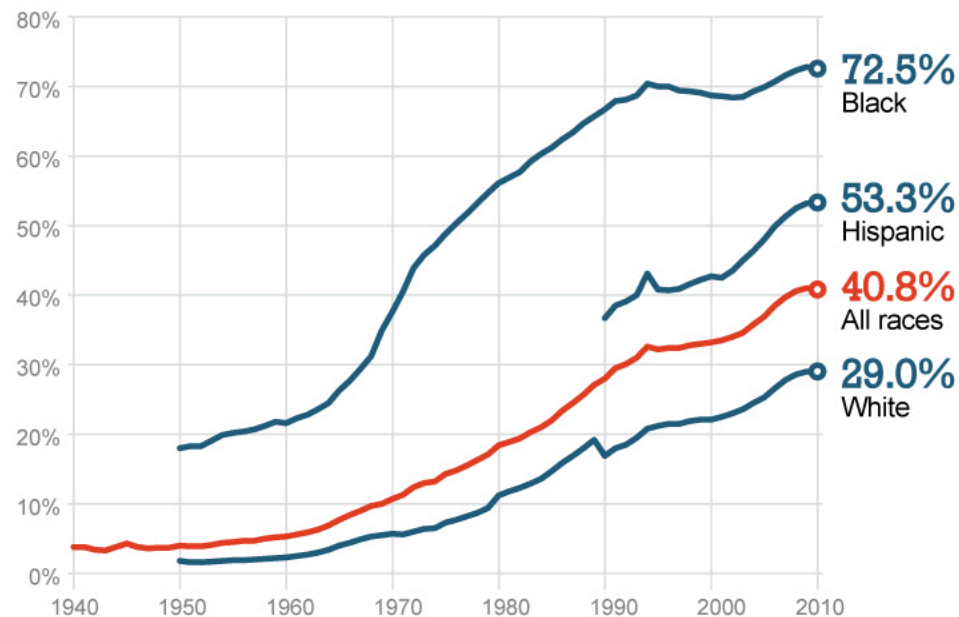
The Family

FACT:

Four in 10 children are born to unwed mothers

The percentage of children born outside of marriage has skyrocketed, with a six-fold increase since 1960. Currently, the figure is highest among blacks, but the rate of increase is highest among whites and Hispanics.

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO UNWED MOTHERS



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, 2011.

The Family



- *We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement*



- **Matt. 19:4-5**

- *‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife*

- **Titus 2:4-5**

- *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home*



Civil Government



- *We call for a national defunding of police.*

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



- Eccl. 8:11

- *Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

- Rom. 13:4

- *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is a minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*



Civil Government

Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors said in a newly surfaced video from 2015 that she and her fellow organizers are “trained Marxists” – making clear their movement’s ideological foundation

Cullors, 36, was the protégé of Eric Mann, former agitator of the Weather Underground domestic terror organization, and spent years absorbing the Marxist-Leninist ideology that shaped her worldview, Breitbart News reported.

... her “first political home” under the mentorship of Mann, ... had deep historical ties to the long history of anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, pro-communist resistance to the US empire, ... also expresses its appreciation for the work of the US Communist Party

<https://nypost.com/2020/06/25/blm-co-founder-describes-herself-as-trained-marxist/>

Civil Government



- Statues destroyed (CSA, Columbus)
- Also Washington, Jefferson, Francis Scott Key, Grant, abolitionists, Jesus, Virgin Mary)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_monuments_and_memorials_removed_during_the_George_Floyd_protests

● 1 Tim. 2:1-2

- *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

● 1 Pet. 2:17

- *Honor all people.... Honor the king.*



Conclusion

Do black lives matter? Absolutely!

- Innocent victims of police brutality
- Innocent store owners
- Black officers who “protect and serve”
- Blacks killed by other blacks
- Aborted black children

Do **all** lives matter? Absolutely!

- Acts 17:26 *And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth*
- 2 Pet. 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that a perish but that a come to repentance*



No Room for Racism

◎ Matt. 19:19

- *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

◎ Acts 10:34

- *...In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

◎ Rom. 14:10

- *But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

What's the Scriptural Solution?

Is It...?

- Rioting, looting, vandalism, arson?
- Promoting sexual expression?
- Discriminating against the family?
- Defunding police?
- Pulling down monuments?



Or Is It...?

- Exercising civil rights & responsibilities?
- Sex restraint?
- Supporting families?
- Respect for authority?
- Love neighbor?



In short, the solution is ... Love God