



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

June 27, 2021

THIS IS EXACTLY WHO WE ARE

I ended my writing on June 13th with the statement, “As much as the United States would like to believe that “This is not who we are,” perhaps it is.”

Had the much viewed video of the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer as Mr. Floyd lay handcuffed, face down in the street been an isolated occurrence, one could justify saying, “This is not who we are.” Unfortunately, the murdering of unarmed black and brown people at the hands of law enforcement officers are too common of an occurrence.

There are those who would argue that there is not a systematic or systemic problem in law enforcement, and the numbers of unarmed black and brown people murdered by police officers is not a cause for concern because the number of black and brown people killed by law enforcement and the number of white people killed by law enforcement are equal. It is true that the total numbers are equal, however, the numbers of black and brown people murdered are disproportionately high when considering the percentage of black and brown people in this country compared to white people. The Washington Post reports:

In 2015, The Washington Post launched a real-time database to track fatal police shootings, and the project continues this year. As of Sunday, 1,502 people have been shot and killed by on-duty police officers since Jan. 1, 2015. Of them, 732 were white, and 381 were black (and 382 were of another or unknown race).

But as data scientists and policing experts often note, comparing how many or how often white people are killed by police to how many or how often black people are killed by the police is statistically dubious unless you first adjust for population.

According to the most recent census data, there are nearly 160 million more white people in America than there are black people. White people make up roughly 62 percent of the U.S. population but only about 49 percent of those who are killed by police officers. African Americans, however, account for 24 percent of those fatally shot and killed by the police despite being just 13 percent of the U.S. population. As The Post noted in a new analysis published last week, that means black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be shot and killed by police officers.

U.S. police officers have shot and killed the exact same number of unarmed white people as they have unarmed black people: 50 each. But because the white population is approximately five times larger than the black population, that means unarmed black Americans were five times as likely as unarmed white Americans to be shot and killed by a police officer.

To dismiss this reality is to dismiss the effort to search for truth and justice. Therefore, it is necessary to take an honest examination and explore what factors are contributing to the disparity.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

"²¹ The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

Proverbs 19:21 (NRSV)

JUNE MEDITATION QUOTE

"If all seeds that fall were to grow, then no one could follow the path under the trees."

Ghanaian Proverb

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Reflect upon a time when God saw, God heard and God acted on your behalf _____

Do I believe that God will continue to see, hear and act on my behalf? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

No matter what I am going through, *God sees, God hears and God acts* on my behalf _____

God sees me and hears me right now, right where I am _____
