



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“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 October 23, 2022

WHAT IS AT STAKE THIS VOTING CYCLE?

Now, more than ever, voting is not about participation in democracy. Rather, voting is a path to power.

Therefore, as certain groups are successful at reducing, restricting and/or rejecting another group’s access to voting, they are also reducing, restricting and/or rejecting their access to power.

It is about power. It is about who has the power, who will get the power and who will keep the power. Many of us believe that maintaining our democracy is of such great value and importance that a political party would never do anything to intentionally upset it. Please understand that there is a political party that would not only intentionally upset our democracy, they are willing to fracture and destroy democracy to remain in power.

Please understand that emphasis of the January 6, 2021 insurrection on the U. S. Capitol should not only be upon those who rioted outside of the Capitol, emphasis should also be upon the politicians who organized and supported the insurrection inside of the Capitol. To maintain their power, they would rather burn down the house than hand over the keys. Therefore, do not be deceived.

One area of deception is the two-point, Conservative platform of anti-abortion and anti-homosexuality. The Bible teaches us to extend love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and patience. The Bible teaches us to produce the Fruit of the Spirit. The Bible teaches us to love each other as Jesus loves us. Alternatively, the two-point, Conservative platform of anti-abortion and anti-homosexuality encourages hatred, rejection, condemnation, isolation and in no way lines up with the principles taught by the Bible. Do not be deceived. They are not pushing this platform for God, they are pushing it for power.

Interestingly, this two-point, Conservative platform has even attracted some Black Christians to this misguided movement. A Black pastor, justifying his support for this two-point, Conservative platform and Conservative candidates shared with me, “I cannot vote for a man who would support abortion.” Let us explore this position a bit deeper.

Conservatives generally tend to be Pro-Life. That is, they are against abortion and believe that all pregnancies should be continued to full term and the babies born into this world. Additionally, Conservatives generally tend to be against social policies that affect and influence the lives of children once they are born into this world. Consequently, they support life before the child is born, however, after the child is born, the child is on her own. Note the recent outrage espoused by the “Pro-Life” people when the jury gave Nikolas Cruz life in prison instead of the death penalty. The “Pro-Life” people wanted him put to death. Do not be deceived.

Progressives generally tend to be Pro-Choice. That is, they support abortion and a woman’s right to choose if she will permit her pregnancy to continue to full term and have her baby born into this world. Additionally, Progressives generally tend to support social policies that affect and influence the lives of children once they are born into this world. Consequently, they may not support life before the child is born, however, after the child is born, they will support him.

Honestly, many of us do not fit neatly in neither the Conservative nor the Progressive camps. Many of us generally tend to be morally conservative and socially progressive. We support life. Therefore, we support life before the child is born and we support life after the child is born. My prayer is that we do not get caught up in the surface level, narrowly focused, guilt ridden views of others and instead, prayerfully, intentionally and holistically consider who is best to serve this country. Do not be deceived. They do not support life; they want your vote so they can remain in power.

UPDATE ON OUR WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

1. **Physical Distancing** – We continue to maintain a moderate degree of physical distancing.
2. **Worship Attendance** – Worship Attendance will be open to those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Additionally, for the safety of everyone in attendance, those *who are unvaccinated are required to wear their masks at all times in the building.*
3. **Registration** – To ensure that we are able to maintain a moderate degree of physical distancing, everyone is strongly encouraged to register in advance. Please call the church office (414-873-1045) before 3:00 pm on Thursday.
4. **Mandatory Masks** – Everyone is required to wear a mask when entering the church and movement to their seat.
 - Once seated, those *who are vaccinated* may remove their mask if they desire.
 - Those *who are not vaccinated* are required to wear their mask at all times in the building

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

CONTEXT

Due to systemic racism, racist policies, and racist societal structures, both Black women and Black men experience intimate partner violence at a disproportionately high rate. By intentionally denying Black people access to economic opportunities, the ability to build intergenerational wealth, healthcare, education,¹ and a sense of safety from governmental systems, racist policies increase the prevalence of risk factors for domestic violence.² These systems create numerous barriers for survivors seeking safety. Law enforcement officials often arrest Black survivors, and police, jurors, and judges are less likely to believe Black survivors than White survivors.³ Racist systems put Black people at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.

STATISTICS

- 45.1% of Black women and 40.1% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.⁴
- 31.8% of Black women and 16.8% of Black men have experienced one or more of the following intimate partner violence-related impacts: being fearful, concerned for safety, any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, injury, need for medical care, housing services, victim advocate services, and/or legal services, missed at least 1 day of work or school, and contacting a crisis hotline.⁵
- 41.2% of Black women and 36.3% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence in their lifetimes.⁶
- 53.8% of Black women and 56.1% of Black men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.⁷
- 8.8% of Black women have been the victims of intimate partner rape in their lifetimes.⁸ • 17.4% of Black women and 14.8% of Black men have experienced intimate partner sexual violence (other than rape) in their lifetimes.⁹
- 9.5% of Black women have experienced intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.¹⁰

HOMICIDE

- An estimated 51.3% of black adult female homicides are related to intimate partner violence.¹¹
- Between 2003-2014, 57.7% of black adult female homicide victims were murdered with the use of a firearm.¹²
- In 2017, for female victim/male offender homicides, Black females had the highest rate at 2.55 per 100,000.¹³

If you are in crisis, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.TheHotline.org.

Please visit the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's website** at www.ncadv.org for more fact sheets, membership information, and valuable resources.

Suggested citation: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2020). *Domestic violence and the Black community*. Retrieved from https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/dv_in_the_black_community.pdf.

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- ¹ Blesset, B. & Littleton, V. (2017). Examining the impact of institutional racism in Black residentially segregated communities. *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*, 6(1).
- ² Capaldi, D. M., Knoble, N. B., Shortt, J. W., & Kim H. K. (2012). A systemic review of risk factors for intimate partner violence. *Partner Abuse*, 3(2), 231 – 280. doi:10.1891/1946-6560.3.2.231.
- ³ Jacobs, M. S. (2017). The violent state: Black women’s invisible struggle against police violence. *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, 24(1), 31-100.
- ⁴ Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVSStateReportBook.pdf>.
- ⁵ Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., Walters, M.L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M.T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization — national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Surveillance Summaries*, 63(8), 1-18. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Violence Policy Center (2019). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2017 homicide data*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

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	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

¹⁵ It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

Proverbs 21:15

OCTOBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

James Baldwin