

Dear Friends,

I was very hopeful when I heard that the five officers in Memphis were fired and charged with the murder of Tyre Nichols, until seeing more of the story and seeing that they were Black as well. It can be racism even if a Black man (or men as police officers) kills another Black man because they are 'protecting' society from those, whom society sees as a threat. It would be similar to say that the Jewish tax collectors were OK, not oppressing, to steal from their Jewish neighbors because they were the same and not Romans, even though they were supporting their oppressors. I do hope that I am wrong and the next unarmed Black or BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) killed by police who happen to be white, will also be fired immediately and charged. More than likely, there will be 'circumstances' to be brought up to say it's not the same. The SCORPIONS were out of control and savage, while the 'others' were scared for their lives and under a threat.

We have created many ways to divide and categorize ourselves. Those in power have become masters of keeping one group against the other so they don't unite to affect real change. It's the story of the man with \$100 billion telling the family making \$100 K that they have to be afraid of those making \$10 K who are going to steal their livelihood.

Jesus comes to tell us a different story, one where all are loved by God, treating others as you want to be treated is the basis of a good society, and that love of money and weapons really only get in the way to loving God and our neighbors. In God's story of justice, the poor are raised up, fed, and given good things, not blamed for their circumstances. In God's kingdom, we are judged by the content of our character, not the color of our skin. In God's kin-dom, or family, we recognize our responsibilities to help and heal each other and the world, not our rights.

God help us all. Please, God, help us.

Peace,

Pastor Enno

(I read this morning about Anthony Lowe in Huntington Park, CA, who was shot 10 times by police officers even though he had no legs, was on the ground away from his wheelchair, and threatening them with a knife. Officers are on administrative leave.)