



VOICE OF THE MIDDLE GROUND

Centered in Jesus who sees our struggles

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” ~ John 13:35

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ~Ephesians 4:15

Dear Christian Leader--

As Christian leaders, we are called to be faithful stewards of the ministries our God has placed before us. The heart of these ministries is the same across the board--the hearts and souls of people. All of us are in need of the gospel and all of us are in need of redemption. Care for the hearts and souls of people also calls us to the weight of discernment, even in the presence of empathy. It is this weight of discernment that can sometimes result in paralysis or uncertainty as to how to move. Alternatively, it can result in an attempt to avoid challenging topics altogether and encouraging others to do the same in an effort to avoid potential sin in our approach to these challenges. Discernment is our call but it shouldn't paralyze us. Paralysis, whether we realize it or are ready to admit it or not, is the result of fear and fear and love cannot exist in fullness together (1 John 4:18). Embracing Christian love for our neighbor cannot happen when we pretend as though challenges do not exist. Our attempt to avoid the reality of racism, how it affects Christian communities and the communities around us does the Church no favors. At times, it results in either a person's shrinking back from full transparency before God and those also part of the household of faith or in a searching for ways to counter these challenges from resources outside of Biblical authority. These resources may be submissive to frameworks not aligned with the Christian



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faith and life. The answer to all of this is a bold church, empowered by the Holy Spirit and equipped with knowledge of how to Biblically speak to racism and its associated challenges in a spirit of both truth and love. Voice of the Middle Ground is your partner in this. And, if you're receiving this from a member of your ministry, this member is communicating to you that they're concerned about these challenges and desire for your ministry to be prepared to rightly apply both law and gospel to these challenges. They want your church to be a home for healing and reconciliation and are also prepared to be part of this process.

Thank you for your time and for your stewardship of the relationships and ministry God has given you to shepherd. We know you may have questions and we're looking forward to speaking with you about these.

God's Blessings Always,
Voice of the Middle Ground