

What happened in Washington D.C. last week was beyond sad. It should not have happened, and I cannot emphasize strongly enough that any connection to these events with the core values of Christianity is utterly wrong. We must all stand against this attack on democracy and sound a definite cry for justice.

Recent events in the U.S. have tried the bonds of civil unity in a time when we are disconnected from one another. Like other places in the world, social distancing has kept us from community and conversation, which are so important to true understanding and compassion. What our differences and distance are doing to us corporately is heartbreaking. What it is doing to the U.S. breaks my heart. What it is doing among Christians breaks my heart.

So how do we respond as followers of Jesus? How do we stand in contrast to the anger, violence and chaos swirling all around us?

1.) We must pray. I know it seems too shallow a thing to say, but actually, I can think of nothing deeper. Pray for the U.S., for its citizens, for our world, for the Kingdom to come. Pray for the Spirit of Christ to settle on all people. Pray for a restoration of true character among leaders.

2.) Think before you speak (or post). Paul tells us to take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). I urge you to hear his admonition and take care of each other by cultivating the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. "Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:23).

3.) Make Christian community your priority now. Community is essential. Now is not the time to isolate and overdose on the news. Now is when we most need to learn how to hear and care for one another with tenderness and respect.

Dear ones, we have never needed Jesus more. We have never needed to humble ourselves before the Lord more than we do right now. We need Jesus, friends. We need each other.

In sincere love,

Pastor Frank