



A Statement on the Violence in Charlottesville, Virginia

As Christians, we condemn the display of white supremacy in Charlottesville and we deplore the resulting violence. We pray for all who were hurt and extend our condolences to the families that lost loved ones. We stand against further violence in Charlottesville or elsewhere in the nation.

We agree with the many voices, among them that of Bishop Charles E. Blake, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, that have recognized the incidents in Charlottesville as an act of terrorism. The insistence on lionizing and romanticizing the acts of treason embodied by the Confederacy is rooted in the doctrine of white supremacy. It was this doctrine that was the ideological basis for slavery and the totalitarianism of the American south. That same doctrine also fed apartheid and open terrorism under Jim Crow. It continues to fuel racism and hatred of black people that is now being expressed in an increasingly open manner.

White supremacy is a demonic principality which is rooted in the spirit of idolatry. The symbolic status conferred by whiteness throughout the West becomes an idol which is valued more highly than other human beings who are created in the image of God. As Christians, we recognize slavery and white racism as the original sins of the United States. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia makes a strong argument along the same lines: “Racism is a poison of the soul. It’s the ugly, original sin of our country, an illness that has never fully healed. Blending it with the Nazi salute, the relic of a regime that murdered millions, compounds the obscenity.”

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The Seymour Institute is whole-heartedly pro-life, not merely pro-birth. We stand against terrorism and violence from white supremacists, just as we condemn abortion. With great sadness, we acknowledge that violence is also rife among some groups of young black men; we must condemn that too. Whatever its source, it is one expression of a culture of death.

Let us pray together for an end to the violence and racism.