

**The Role of the church in this time of
opportunity; COVID-19, tribalism and political
upheaval!**

United in Christ!

“Engaging Insanity”!

**Colossians 4:2-6 ESV Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same
time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door
for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on
account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it
clear, which is how I ought to speak.**

**5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best
use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious,
seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you
ought to answer each person.**

Introduction

In the midst of the virus, tribalization, and political
upheaval what should the church be doing?

Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly
with your God!

**Jeremiah 22:13 ESV Woe to him who builds his house
by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice,
who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and
does not give him his wages**

We have looked at the unity we have in Christ and
the impact that has on our lives in community

We have seen that the only possible and real unity
that can be achieved is the unity we have in Christ
Jesus

In Colossians we have seen what it looks like to
mature in Christ

Today, we will look at living wisely in the world as we
add to what we have learned so far, let's recap

Look at V1, 5, 8, 12-13, 15-22

Saved, putting off, putting on, abiding with, growing in community, wives, husbands, children, workers
We will see how we are to operate in the world

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Continue steadfastly in prayer.

Luke 18:1 ESV And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Romans 12:12 ESV2 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Ephesians 6:18a NIV And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 ESV Pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

being watchful in it (prayer)

1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

James 1:27 ESV Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Continue steadfastly in prayer

3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18b-19 With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may

be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 ESV Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you.

1 Corinthians 16:9 ESV For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Matthew 13:11 ESV And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

1 Corinthians 2:4 ESV And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

This is what happens when the ministry is bathed in prayer

Pray for ourselves

Pray for the advancement of the gospel

Pray for the workers working to advance the gospel

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

We need to be careful what outsiders see and hear
A lost world is watching and listening

Matthew 10:16 ESV "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves".

1 Thessalonians 4:12 ESV So that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Ephesians 5:15 ESV Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

1 Timothy 6:4 ESV He is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without Christ
Walk in wisdom; we must manage our lives in such a way that Christianity cannot be maligned

Paul was wary in his reasoning with those who were not Christians, and would have others to be so

Matthew 7:6 ESV "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you".

Redeeming the time knowing that the time we have left here to work is short

An extra effort to recover time by being gainfully employed spiritually in the time that remains

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Let your speech always be gracious

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. **Ecclesiastes 10:12 ESV** The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him.

Proverbs 12:18 ESV There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

seasoned with salt

Mark 9:50 ESV Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

Salt-your life, the example you set, the deeds that you do and truth of God's Word that you are and cannot be ashamed of

so that you may know how you ought to answer each person

We must be in Christ, in His Word and willing to speak His Word

We must engage the lost world and speak the truth in love when given the opportunity

We have been silent to long

Our conversation with the lost must be thought out carefully

We should be willing to speak of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior

We should be able to speak of Christ as that Savior
1 Peter 3:15 ESV But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

We must be in Christ, in His Word, living by His Word, and willing to articulate His Word

We must engage the lost world and speak the truth in love when given the opportunity (Genesis 1-11)

We have been silent too long and look where we are, abortion, murder, (racism) hatred, the Bible and prayer are gone from Government schools, what is allowed sexually is off the charts, and now the mutilation of the body to achieve a perceived self-identified sexuality

Summary

We are to be heavenly, other world focused
We are to be about mortifying sin and putting off the old man and all malice toward others
We are to be putting on the new man, God's Word, kindness, love and doing good to others
We are to be the wives God has called us to be, the husbands God has called us to be, the children God has called us to be and the workers God has called us to be
People of prayer, people who are watchful, people of thanksgiving, people who pray for the gospel to be spread, people who walk wisely in the world and are gracious and loving and truthful in our speech
We better get harnessed up and armored up
Next week how this all comes about

"Destroying history will not make you feel good about the present... Learning from it might." -- Victor David Hanson

When the Taliban burned down churches or destroyed artifacts, we called it barbaric. But when angry mobs tear down our statues and vandalize monuments, it's "justice?" There are things this country has witnessed over the last few weeks that will take a lifetime to understand. And even longer to get over. The image of great American heroes being toppled and cracked into pieces on the streets is just the latest chapter in this story of chaos the radicals are writing. But if the outrage from the White House is any indication, this administration is done letting cities feed the monster.

More than 400 U.S. marshals are on their way to national monuments across the country, the new guardians of centuries of history. "Enough is enough," Senate Majority Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) fumed on the House floor. Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, "Genius statesmen who helped begin this grand experiment that has brought freedom to hundreds of millions and saved the world a few times for good measure. And yet a crazy fringe is treating their monuments like vanity statues of tinhorn tyrants. Our founding fathers are being roped to the ground like they were Saddam Hussein... Ulysses S. Grant, the general who crushed the Confederacy. The president who used federal force to fight the Klan. They, too, have been placed on the historical hit list for this new Red Guard that nobody elected" -- while a Seattle tribute to Vladimir Lenin, a Soviet mass murder, stands quite untouched.

This is no longer about racial justice or even the Confederacy. This is about erasing American history. And Christians, of all people, cannot afford to sit by and watch it happen. "The mob will keep marching," Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) warned, through all our cultural institutions until every American whom the woke crowd deems unjust is cancelled." Don't think for a moment that appeasement will come when mayors and governors step aside and allow the destruction of every statue or historical landmark at the demand of the mobs. If anything, placating them will only whet their appetite for more.

Are there legitimate concerns here? Absolutely. Slavery was a tremendous blight on the American experiment of freedom. The peaceful protestors recognize that. But there are far more who are exploiting this racial tension to pursue something else: the destruction of our country. "The United States of America can and should have nuanced conversations about our complex past," Senator McConnell agreed. "We can and should have discussions about our future. We can and should have peaceful protests. But this lawlessness serves none of that. It is just an alliance of convenience between angry criminals who think it's fun to wreak havoc... and a slice of elite society that profits off saying our country is evil and deserves the abuse."

Real, honest history includes the good, the bad, and the ugly, which isn't just the story of America -- but all of humanity. Mankind is a testament to redemption, not perfection. The Bible bears that out. It doesn't sugar-coat the history of God's people. In fact, throughout Scripture, there's almost an emphasis on man's failings. Look at

King David, an adulterer and murderer. Or Jesus's own lineage of prostitutes and sinners. Consider the apostle Paul, one of the most revered followers of Christ, who got his start by killing believers. Or Peter, who denied Jesus three times and then abandoned him to a violent death on the cross.

Scripture doesn't tell these stories to celebrate them -- it tells them to remind us: we are fallen. And only God in his perfect plan of redemption can save us. "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect," Paul said in Philippians 3:12, "but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."

Very seldom do statues like these topple without governments falling with them. It's time to acknowledge the failures of our past, not pretend like they didn't exist. That's the only way move forward, to find promise and hope in the future. America isn't perfect. But Senator McConnell is right. Our "imperfect union is still the greatest nation in world history." And we have to protect it, even as we work to perfect it.

UC Berkeley History Professor's Open Letter
Against BLM, Police Brutality and Cultural
Orthodoxy

Dear profs X, Y, Z;

I am one of your colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley. I have met you both personally but do not know you closely, and am contacting you anonymously, with apologies. I am worried that writing this email publicly might lead to me losing my job, and likely all future jobs in my field.

In your recent departmental emails you mentioned our pledge to diversity, but I am increasingly alarmed by the absence of diversity of opinion on the topic of the recent protests and our community response to them.

In the extended links and resources you provided, I could not find a single instance of substantial counter-argument or alternative narrative to explain the under-representation of black individuals in academia or their over-representation in the criminal justice system. The explanation provided in your documentation, to the near exclusion of all others, is univariate: the problems of the black community are caused by whites, or, when whites are not physically present, by the infiltration of white supremacy and white

systemic racism into American brains, souls, and institutions.

Many cogent objections to this thesis have been raised by sober voices, including from within the black community itself, such as Thomas Sowell and Wilfred Reilly. These people are not racists or 'Uncle Toms'. They are intelligent scholars who reject a narrative that strips black people of agency and systematically externalizes the problems of the black community onto outsiders. Their view is entirely absent from the departmental and UCB-wide communiques.

The claim that the difficulties that the black community faces are entirely causally explained by exogenous factors in the form of white systemic racism, white supremacy, and other forms of white discrimination remains a problematic hypothesis that should be vigorously challenged by historians. Instead, it is being treated as an axiomatic and actionable truth without serious consideration of its profound flaws, or its worrying implication of total black impotence. This hypothesis is transforming our institution and our culture, without any space for dissent outside of a tightly policed, narrow discourse.

A counternarrative exists. If you have time, please consider examining some of the documents I

attach at the end of this email. Overwhelmingly, the reasoning provided by BLM and allies is either primarily anecdotal (as in the case with the bulk of Ta-Nehisi Coates' undeniably moving article) or it is transparently motivated. As an example of the latter problem, consider the proportion of black incarcerated Americans. This proportion is often used to characterize the criminal justice system as anti-black. However, if we use the precise same methodology, we would have to conclude that the criminal justice system is even more anti-male than it is anti-black.

Would we characterize criminal justice as a systemically misandrist conspiracy against innocent American men? I hope you see that this type of reasoning is flawed, and requires a significant suspension of our rational faculties. Black people are not incarcerated at higher rates than their involvement in violent crime would predict. This fact has been demonstrated multiple times across multiple jurisdictions in multiple countries.

And yet, I see my department uncritically reproducing a narrative that diminishes black agency in favor of a white-centric explanation that appeals to the department's apparent desire to shoulder the 'white man's burden' and to promote a narrative of white guilt.

If we claim that the criminal justice system is white-supremacist, why is it that Asian Americans, Indian Americans, and Nigerian Americans are incarcerated at vastly lower rates than white Americans? This is a funny sort of white supremacy. Even Jewish Americans are incarcerated less than gentile whites. I think it's fair to say that your average white supremacist disapproves of Jews. And yet, these alleged white supremacists incarcerate gentiles at vastly higher rates than Jews. None of this is addressed in your literature. None of this is explained, beyond hand-waving and ad hominem. "Those are racist dogwhistles". "The model minority myth is white supremacist". "Only fascists talk about black-on-black crime", ad nauseam.

These types of statements do not amount to counterarguments: they are simply arbitrary offensive classifications, intended to silence and oppress discourse. Any serious historian will recognize these for the silencing orthodoxy tactics they are, common to suppressive regimes, doctrines, and religions throughout time and space. They are intended to crush real diversity and permanently exile the culture of robust criticism from our department.

Increasingly, we are being called upon to comply and subscribe to BLM's problematic view of history,

and the department is being presented as unified on the matter. In particular, ethnic minorities are being aggressively marshaled into a single position. Any apparent unity is surely a function of the fact that dissent could almost certainly lead to expulsion or cancellation for those of us in a precarious position, which is no small number.

I personally don't dare speak out against the BLM narrative, and with this barrage of alleged unity being mass-produced by the administration, tenured professoriat, the UC administration, corporate America, and the media, the punishment for dissent is a clear danger at a time of widespread economic vulnerability. I am certain that if my name were attached to this email, I would lose my job and all future jobs, even though I believe in and can justify every word I type.

The vast majority of violence visited on the black community is committed by black people. There are virtually no marches for these invisible victims, no public silences, no heartfelt letters from the UC regents, deans, and departmental heads. The message is clear: Black lives only matter when whites take them. Black violence is expected and insoluble, while white violence requires explanation and demands solution. Please look into your hearts and see how monstrously bigoted this formulation truly is.

No discussion is permitted for nonblack victims of black violence, who proportionally outnumber black victims of nonblack violence. This is especially bitter in the Bay Area, where Asian victimization by black assailants has reached epidemic proportions, to the point that the SF police chief has advised Asians to stop hanging good-luck charms on their doors, as this attracts the attention of (overwhelmingly black) home invaders. Home invaders like George Floyd. For this actual, lived, physically experienced reality of violence in the USA, there are no marches, no tearful emails from departmental heads, no support from McDonald's and Wal-Mart. For the History department, our silence is not a mere abrogation of our duty to shed light on the truth: it is a rejection of it.

The claim that black intraracial violence is the product of redlining, slavery, and other injustices is a largely historical claim. It is for historians, therefore, to explain why Japanese internment or the massacre of European Jewry hasn't led to equivalent rates of dysfunction and low SES performance among Japanese and Jewish Americans respectively. Arab Americans have been viciously demonized since 9/11, as have Chinese Americans more recently. However, both groups outperform white Americans on nearly all SES indices - as do Nigerian Americans, who incidentally have black skin. It is for historians to

point out and discuss these anomalies. However, no real discussion is possible in the current climate at our department. The explanation is provided to us, disagreement with it is racist, and the job of historians is to further explore additional ways in which the explanation is additionally correct. This is a mockery of the historical profession.

Most troublingly, our department appears to have been entirely captured by the interests of the Democratic National Convention, and the Democratic Party more broadly. To explain what I mean, consider what happens if you choose to donate to Black Lives Matter, an organization UCB History has explicitly promoted in its recent mailers. All donations to the official BLM website are immediately redirected to ActBlue Charities, an organization primarily concerned with bankrolling election campaigns for Democrat candidates. Donating to BLM today is to indirectly donate to Joe Biden's 2020 campaign. This is grotesque given the fact that the American cities with the worst rates of black-on-black violence and police-on-black violence are overwhelmingly Democrat-run. Minneapolis itself has been entirely in the hands of Democrats for over five decades; the 'systemic racism' there was built by successive Democrat administrations.

The patronizing and condescending attitudes of Democrat leaders towards the black community, exemplified by nearly every Biden statement on the black race, all but guarantee a perpetual state of misery, resentment, poverty, and the attendant grievance politics which are simultaneously annihilating American political discourse and black lives. And yet, donating to BLM is bankrolling the election campaigns of men like Mayor Frey, who saw their cities devolve into violence. This is a grotesque capture of a good-faith movement for necessary police reform, and of our department, by a political party. Even worse, there are virtually no avenues for dissent in academic circles. I refuse to serve the Party, and so should you.

The total alliance of major corporations involved in human exploitation with BLM should be a warning flag to us, and yet this damning evidence goes unnoticed, purposefully ignored, or perversely celebrated. We are the useful idiots of the wealthiest classes, carrying water for Jeff Bezos and other actual, real, modern-day slavers. Starbucks, an organisation using literal black slaves in its coffee plantation suppliers, is in favor of BLM. Sony, an organisation using cobalt mined by yet more literal black slaves, many of whom are children, is in favor of BLM. And so, apparently, are we. The absence of counter-narrative enables this obscenity. Fiat lux, indeed.

Your email...

There also exists a large constituency of what can only be called 'race hustlers': hucksters of all colors who benefit from stoking the fires of racial conflict to secure administrative jobs, charity management positions, academic jobs and advancement, or personal political entrepreneurship.

Given the direction our history department appears to be taking far from any commitment to truth, we can regard ourselves as a formative training institution for this brand of snake-oil salespeople. Their activities are corrosive, demolishing any hope at harmonious racial coexistence in our nation and colonizing our political and institutional life. Many of their voices are unironically segregationist.

MLK would likely be called an Uncle Tom if he spoke on our campus today. We are training leaders who intend, explicitly, to destroy one of the only truly successful ethnically diverse societies in modern history. As the PRC, an ethnonationalist and aggressively racially chauvinist national polity with null immigration and no concept of jus solis increasingly presents itself as the global political alternative to the US, I ask you: Is this wise? Are we really doing the right thing?

As a final point, our university and department has made multiple statements celebrating and eulogizing George Floyd. Floyd was a multiple felon who once held a pregnant black woman at gunpoint. He broke into her home with a gang of men and pointed a gun at her pregnant stomach. He terrorized the women in his community. He sired and abandoned multiple children, playing no part in their support or upbringing, failing one of the most basic tests of decency for a human being. He was a drug-addict and sometime drug-dealer, a swindler who preyed upon his honest and hard-working neighbors.

And yet, the regents of UC and the historians of the UCB History department are celebrating this violent criminal, elevating his name to virtual sainthood. A man who hurt women. A man who hurt black women. With the full collaboration of the UCB history department, corporate America, most mainstream media outlets, and some of the wealthiest and most privileged opinion-shaping elites of the USA, he has become a culture hero, buried in a golden casket, his (recognized) family showered with gifts and praise. Americans are being socially pressured into kneeling for this violent, abusive misogynist. A generation of black men are being coerced into identifying with George Floyd, the absolute worst specimen of our race and species.

No message will more surely devastate their futures, especially if whites run out of guilt, or indeed if America runs out of whites. If this had been done to Japanese Americans, or Jewish Americans, or Chinese Americans, then Chinatown and Japantown would surely be no different to the roughest parts of Baltimore and East St. Louis today. The History department of UCB is now an integral institutional promulgator of a destructive and denigrating fallacy about the black race.

I hope you appreciate the frustration behind this message. I do not support BLM. I do not support the Democrat grievance agenda and the Party's uncontested capture of our department. I do not support the Party co-opting my race, as Biden recently did in his disturbing interview, claiming that voting Democrat and being black are isomorphic. I condemn the manner of George Floyd's death and join you in calling for greater police accountability and police reform. However, I will not pretend that George Floyd was anything other than a violent misogynist, a brutal man who met a predictably brutal end.

I also want to protect the practice of history. Cleo is no grovelling handmaiden to politicians and corporations. Like us, she is free.