Peacemaking as Mission

Challenging Racism Near and Far

Al Tizon
Socio-cultural, structural discrimination based on ethnicity—racism—is everywhere.
Racism is everywhere
Global Pigmentocracy

Racism is everywhere... and in every generation in all times
Along with COVID-19, there is RACISM-20
Peacemaking as Mission

the church must embrace peacemaking as the primary paradigm for mission
Peacemaking as Mission

Revelation 7:9
Peacemaking, only a part of the ministry of reconciliation

Missionally speaking, the vertical, horizontal, and circular dimensions of reconciliation express themselves in the ministries of:

- **Evangelism**, facilitating reconciliation between God and people;
- **Peacemaking**, facilitating reconciliation between people and people; and
- **Stewardship**, facilitating reconciliation between God, people, and creation

The church as **evangelist, peacemaker, and steward** in practicing the Whole Commission
Peacemaking as Mission

Peacemaking refers to the hard work of overcoming distrust, misunderstanding, bitterness, and even hatred between conflicted parties in the power of the whole gospel. It goes beyond conflict resolution and seeks to restore social harmony that is based on justice. Peacemaking as mission strives in the Spirit to reflect nothing less than the shalom of God in social relationships, going beyond the mere absence of conflict to full-on, relational embrace between oppressed and oppressor, victim and victimizer, abused and abuser.
Peacemaking as Mission

• What does peacemaking look like in a world that, humanly speaking, is hopelessly broken?
• What principles must be operative for genuine peace to manifest itself?
Elements of Peacemaking as Mission
Elements of Peacemaking as Mission

- A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
Heart of Peace

• **prayer as warfare**: “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of this world.”

• **self-examination**: are our hearts filled with festering anger and bitterness; if so, how can God use us for peace? How deep is our reservoir of grace for others, even those with whom we disagree?
Elements of **Peacemaking as Mission**

- A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
- **Power of Relationship:** to know and be known
Humanizing the Other via developing relationships

Peacemakers create spaces for the power of relationship to work its magic, and thus begin a humanization process essential for reconciliation.
Elements of **Peacemaking as Mission**

- A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
- Power of Relationship: to know and be known
- Real Dialogue: truth, love, and vulnerability
Real Dialogue

To be committed to truth and love makes us vulnerable. To be vulnerable takes skill to...

...hold one’s truth **uncompromisingly** while loving those who hold a different truth **unconditionally**.
Elements of Peacemaking as Mission

• A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
• Power of Relationship: to know and be known
• Real Dialogue: truth, love, and vulnerability
• Healing Pain: Repentance, Forgiveness, and Lament
Healing Pain

• ... to the wrongdoer: repent
• ... to the wronged: forgive
• ... to both: lament

“Have mercy on us, O Lord. Empower us to sin no more and to champion the justice and peace of the gospel.”
Elements of **Peacemaking as Mission**

- A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
- Power of Relationship: to know and be known
- Real Dialogue: truth, love, and vulnerability
- Healing Pain: Repentance, Forgiveness, and Lament
- Just Peacemaking: Peace, Peace, Where There is No Justice
1. Support nonviolent direct action.
2. Take independent initiatives to reduce threat.
3. Use cooperative conflict resolution.
4. Acknowledge responsibility for conflict and injustice and seek repentance and forgiveness.
5. Advance democracy, human rights, and religious liberty.
6. Foster just and sustainable economic development.
7. Work with emerging cooperative forces in the international system.
9. Reduce offensive weapons and weapons trade.
10. Encourage grassroots peacemaking groups and voluntary associations.
Just Peacemaking

• Addressing the *why* of human suffering: Injustice is a major cause of unrest and war
• Enemies doing justice *together*
Elements of **Peacemaking as Mission**

- A heart of peace: spirituality of reconciliation
- Power of Relationship: to know and be known
- Real Dialogue: truth, love, and vulnerability
- Healing Pain: Repentance, Forgiveness, and Lament
- Just Peacemaking: Peace, Peace, Where There is No Justice
- Non-violent action: what part of “love your enemy” do we not understand?
Nonviolent Action

• Beyond the just-war/pacifism debate and beckoning the whole church to reflect Christ’s peace in a violent world.
• Faithful unto death: getting in the way of violence, even if it costs us our lives
Elements of Peacemaking as Mission

• Cultivating a heart of peace
• Submitting to the power of relationship
• Engaging in real dialogue
• Healing pain: repenting, forgiving, lamenting
• Practicing justice
• Committing to nonviolent action
The thesis of this presentation is that peacemaking needs to be central to the church’s mission, especially today. Do you agree or disagree?

How has your church or organization challenged racism as part of its social mission, past or present?

What needs to change in our churches or organizations in order to be a reconciling agent in our fractured world in general?
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