

DIE-IN @EMORY 2014

SHOULD CHRISTIANS PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC PROTESTS?

Public demonstrations are a consistent part of Biblical narrative:

- *Moses publically calling Pharoah to repentance,*
- *Ezekiel's public morality play,*
- *God's call to Habakkuk to write the vision of justice and righteousness and make it plain,*
- *Jesus' speaking publically against rulers for oppression, and turning over tables during the busiest festival of the year.*
- *The cross of Jesus Christ was a public demonstration*
- *The pouring out of God's Spirit.*
- *Paul in prison for disobeying authorities*

WHAT IS A DIE-IN?

DIE-IN: In the simplest form of a die-in, protesters simply lie down on the ground and pretend to be dead, sometimes covering themselves with signs or banners. The point of a die-in is to disrupt the flow of people on a street or sidewalk to grab the attention of passersby. It is usually not very long.

TONIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION:

Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope. (Lamentations 3:29)

Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. (Joel 2:17)

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" (1 King 18:39)

As Christians we are invited into what the bible calls lament and intercession. It's when we feel a deep sense of burden for the injustice in the land and we cry out to God. Today's die in will be BOTH, Protest and Intercession. We are called as believers to reach out (to God and others) and to resist (sin and injustice). So in light of this, We will enter into silent prayers of lament and intercession, while we use our bodies as physical symbols of protest.

OPTION 1:

You can choose to lay on your backs as a physical reminder that the black bodies that have been killed on our soil are young men and women who were made in the image of God and who had real destinies and value to Him. You can use this time to silently pray for the families of the victim's man of whom were left without a sense of justice due to non-indictment or reduced charges.

OPTION 2

You can lay prostrate (on our stomachs) as a symbol of reverence and deep intercession as we cry out to God to bring restoration and redemption to our world in light of the aforementioned injustices. The priests in the Old Testament would take this posture as they wept between the porch and the altar. This can also be a time of repentance for the sins in our nation as well as our own sins of rage or indifference towards these issues in our nation.

NO ONE OPTION IS MORE SPIRITUAL THAN THE OTHER BOTH OF THESE PHYSICAL

*POSTURES ARE DONE WITH A HEART THAT IS FILLED WITH SILENT PRAYERS
DIRECTED TO GOD, OUR ONLY HOPE, TO COME AND HEAL OUR LAND.*

We will do this for about ten minutes and some of us will be standing and inviting people to join us in protest. After about 8 minutes I will declare the names of the people on the signs and pray a corporate prayer to God.

FACILITATOR PRAYS OUT LOUD:

GOD YOU ARE A JUST GOD. YOU LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND YOU HATE
WIKEDNESS. YOUR HEART BREAKS AND YOU WEEP OVER INJUSTICE. WE CRY
OUT TO YOU TO BRING RESTORATION, TO BRING REDEMPTION, TO INSPIRE HOPE,
TO HEAL OUR LAND. IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE LIVES OF BLACK MEN AND
WOMEN HOLD VALUE TO YOU, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE LIVES OF BLACK
MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY AND TRAGICALLY CUT SHORT OVER
THE LAST THREE YEARS WE LAY BEFORE YOU AND SAY CHRIST HAVE MERCY,
LORD HAVE MERCY. WE REMEMBER THE NAMES OF EACH INDIVIDUAL
ALTHOUGHTH WE COULD NOT NAME THEM ALL WE REMEMBER BEFORE YOU:

TRAYVON MARTIN
AKAI GURLEY
JONATHAN FERELL
DANTE PARKER
ERIC GARNER
JORDAN DAVIS
MICHAEL BROWN
JOHN CRAWFORD
TAMIR RICE
WALTER SCOTT
FREDDIE GRAY
RUMAIN BRISBON
PHILLIP WHITE
TANISHA ANDERSON
TONY ROBINSON
EZELL FORD
JERAME REID
SEAN BELL
DONTRE HAMILTON
CYNTHIA HURD
SUSIE JACKSON
ETHEL LANCE
DEPAYNE MIDDLETON-DOCTOR
CLEMENTA PINCKNEY
TYWANZA SANDERS
DANIEL SIMMONS
SHARONDA SINGLETON
MYRA THOMPSON

MYKA THOMPSON
JORDAN EDWARDS
ALTON STERLING
PHILANDO CASTILE