



ASUC SENATOR SOO

CW: police violence

For Immediate Release - June 14, 2020

In the last two weeks, my inbox has been flooded with questions about a statement. To the many people that reached out to me, thank you. I am so encouraged by your heart for justice and I hope to be able to come alongside you in this fight. Before I start, I want to acknowledge that I am actively praying, discerning, and educating myself, but I am very far from being able to provide the answers that Christians, including myself, are looking for. Part of the reason I hesitated in publishing a statement is because I am grossly ill-equipped to be writing on behalf of an entire community. I don't pretend to be able to convey every opinion. Rather, this is an open letter, based on what I have prayed into, discussed, and been convicted of. So although I find it necessary to use my platform and speak out, this statement is inevitably incomplete. Please have grace while reading. If you would like to share your thoughts, I would love to listen and learn.

I know very little, but I do know this: not only do Black lives matter, Black lives are also precious, beloved, and needed, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Bible is abundantly clear that all people are made in the image of God. Life is precious. Thus, because the current socio-political climate has no effect on the sovereignty of the Lord, the statement I'm making is not a debate on these three words. I am fully aware that another post, without action, contributes to the regressive desensitization of murder. So as a citizen, a Christian, and a human being who desperately wants to see real change, I am calling for the most powerful action: prayer.

It's easy to skip prayer when the media saturates the narrative and what is an innately nuanced discussion is forced into a war of absolutes. It's easy to skip prayer because so many people have used it as an excuse for complacency. It's easy to skip prayer when the world seems so dark, it's hard to hold onto the light, much less be the light. Today, the darkness of the world is obvious. But this is not new. The same sin that kills people through police brutality also nailed Jesus to the cross. We need to remember that racism is not evidence of the lack of God in the world, but rather, proof of how broken the world is and how much we need Him. I am by no means devaluing the importance of other actions: go sign petitions, go donate, go peacefully protest. Please never stop fighting for justice, but do so prayerfully. *Prayerfully* sign, *prayerfully* donate, and *prayerfully* protest. Psalm 127 reminds us that "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain". So, if Christians genuinely care about real change, we have to recognize that at its core, racism is a heart issue that only God can fix. When protests cease and hashtags stop trending, prayer will remain equally as crucial. Likewise, at the end of the day, vengeance belongs solely to the Lord. To pursue anything out of this understanding is futile and sinful.

TL;dr prayer is not our contingency plan. Only God can turn what the enemy means for evil into a victory. That includes the racism that we so blatantly see as well as our own heart posture in responding to it. Below are some much longer, more eloquent, and more encompassing reads that have really blessed me. I hope they are able to bless you too:

<https://medium.com/@jasonilim24/a-confession-284cc7079cd8>

https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2020/06/04/opinion-as-a-black-man-i-refuse-to-bow-to-spirit-of-white-supremacy/?fbclid=IwAR3j24oJM0OuHGYF1KdssKKyXkZ885glAbireDAIyJOU4hx2mCpuf_Lprcc

<https://www.facebook.com/rshjeong/posts/10151372698424996>

In Christ,
Rebecca Soo
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*This statement represents Senator Soo, not the Association.

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