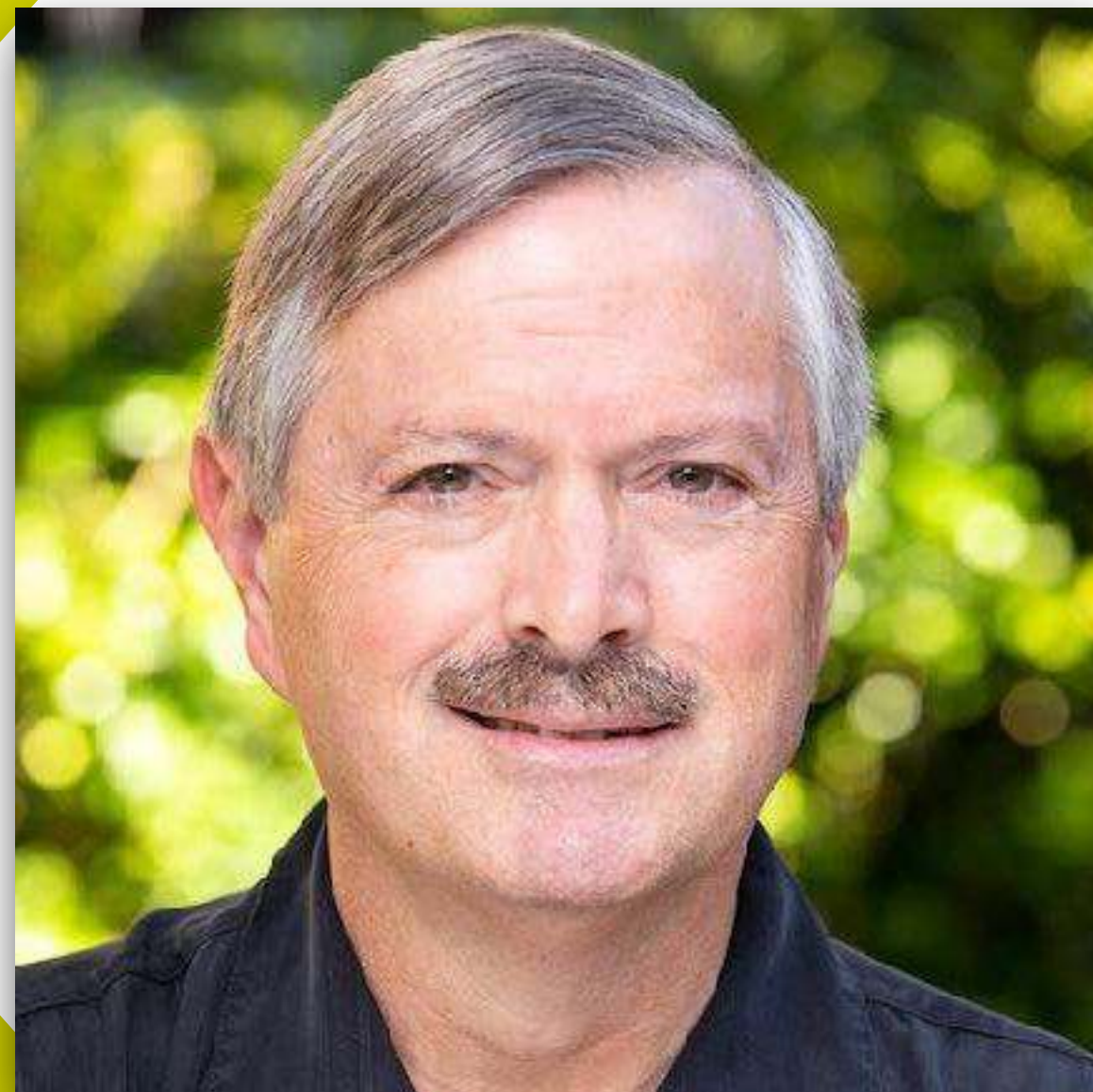


# **Racial Issues & the Church**

## ***Understanding Other Perspectives***



**Fletch and Mike Gould Talk with  
XPs Nick Smith and Tim Samuel**



**Fletch comments ...**

**Apathy  
sides with the  
abusers**

# Overview & Causal Elements

# Curfew for 60 Million

In other cities, officials Tuesday dealt with blowback from previous violent incidents. Prosecutors in Atlanta charged six officers after they used stun guns on two unarmed black college students driving downtown. In Richmond, the mayor apologized after police tear-gassed peaceful protesters. And in Philadelphia, the mayor criticized police officers who posed for photos with a group of white vigilantes wielding baseball bats and shovels.

More than 60 million people were under curfews in 200 cities and 27 states because of the protests. The measures were intended to separate peaceful demonstrators from looters and vandals. At least 17,000 National Guard troops had been activated.

- **Protests**
- **Riots**
- **Looting**
- **Police abuse**
- **Curfew**
- **National Guard**





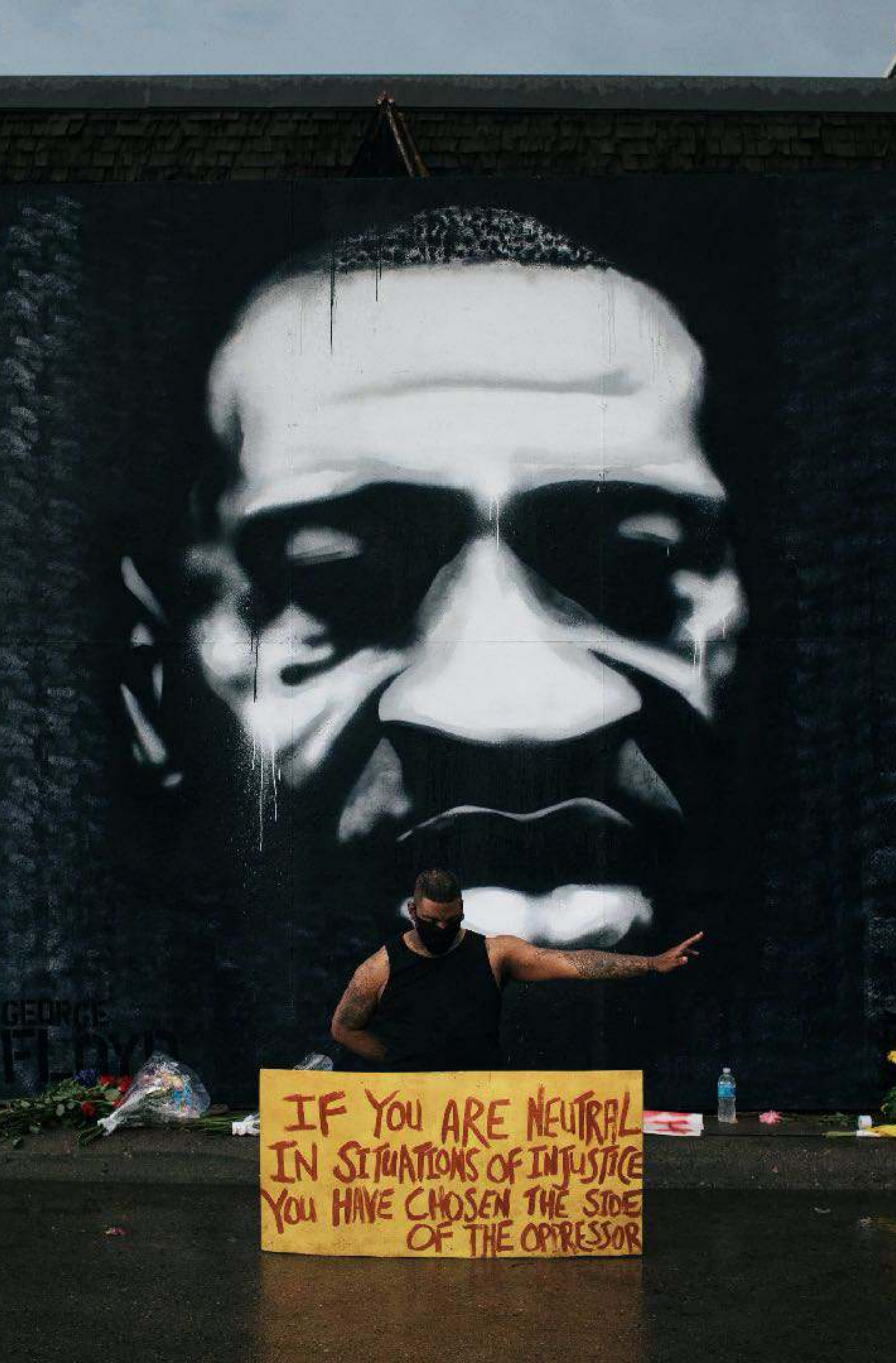












## **On the Death of George Floyd**

**Byron Spencer, handing out water and burgers to protesters outside Los Angeles City Hall, said he was both “elated and defeated” by word of the new charges. He said he had seen countless surges of outrage over police brutality against black men, only to have it happen again.**

**“I’m 55, I’m black and I’m male. I’ve seen the cycle,” he said. “It’s almost like PTSD constantly having this conversation with my son.”**



# Other Causal Elements

Floyd's death could hardly have come at a more explosive time. And the violence and rage reflects that, observers say.

"This outbreak of demonstrations is not just about George Floyd," said Cat Brooks, who co-founded the Anti Police-Terror Project after Grant was shot to death in Oakland by a BART Police officer. "It's about Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor and all the other victims, and about rage by black and brown people that has been going on for many years.

"But one thing that's different is that right now, a lot of people doing these protests are stuck in their houses, lost their jobs, don't know if they will be able to make a living," Brooks said. "They're stressed, they got the bulls—\$1,200 stimulus check, and they're angry.

- **Other deaths**
- **Job loss**
- **Anger**
- **COVID-19**



# **There Are Complexities**


**Lawrence Kobilinsky, a forensics expert at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said he was struck by the difference between the county's official autopsy and Dr. Baden's private autopsy.**

**Mr. Kobilinsky said lawyers could make a point of the presence of fentanyl in Mr. Floyd's body. Although the amount required to be lethal varies, fentanyl can stop a person's heart and breathing.**



**There was nothing in the full autopsy that made him change his medical opinion. "Restraint is what caused the death."**



A photograph showing several protesters wearing blue riot helmets and shields. They are standing in front of the White House, with the Washington Monument visible in the background. The scene is filled with smoke or tear gas.

# Federal gassing only fuels D.C. protests

Thousands gather as  
streets around White House  
are blocked off

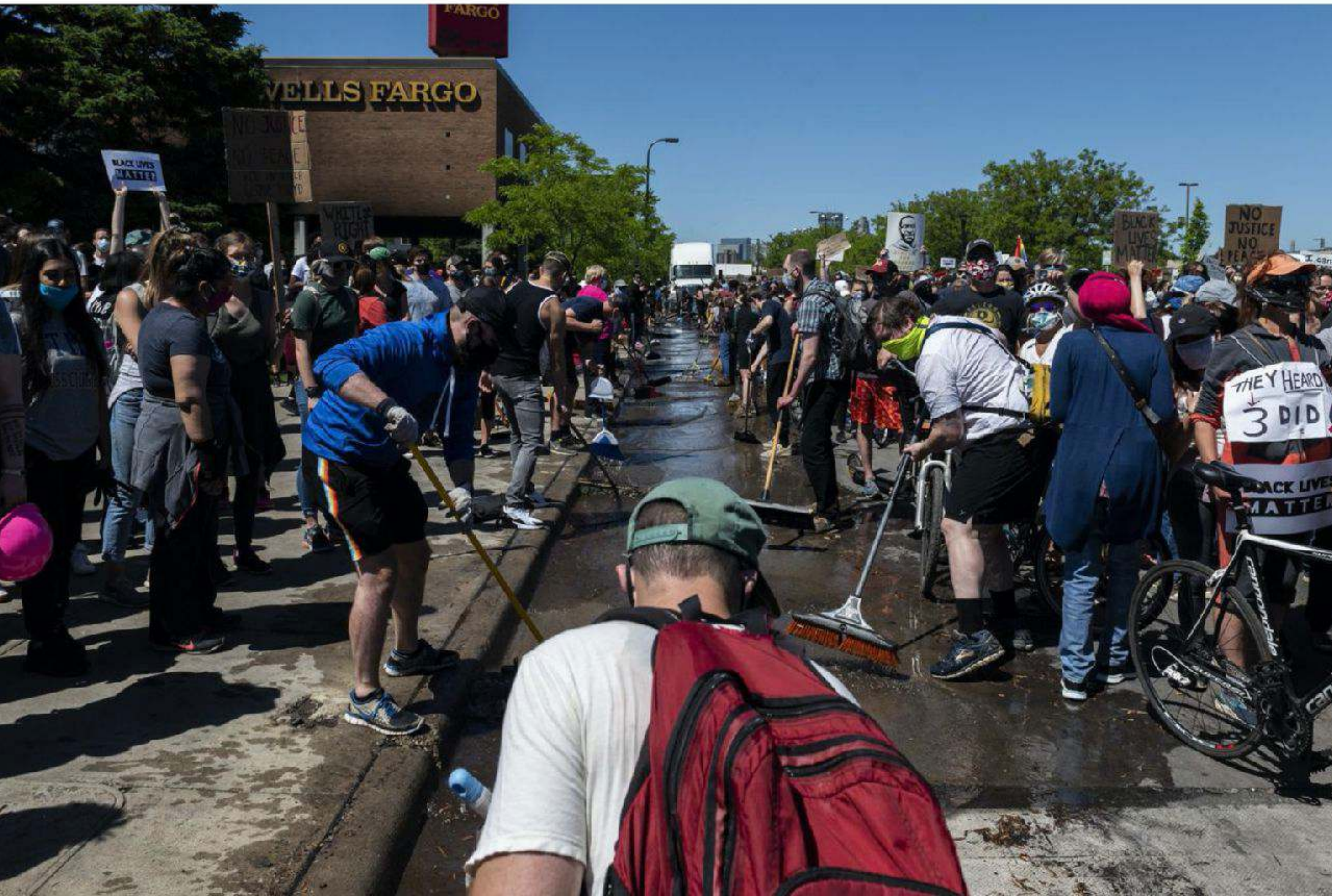






# After Riots, One Minneapolis Neighborhood Begins to Recover

Residents and shopkeepers remove debris and look out for each other



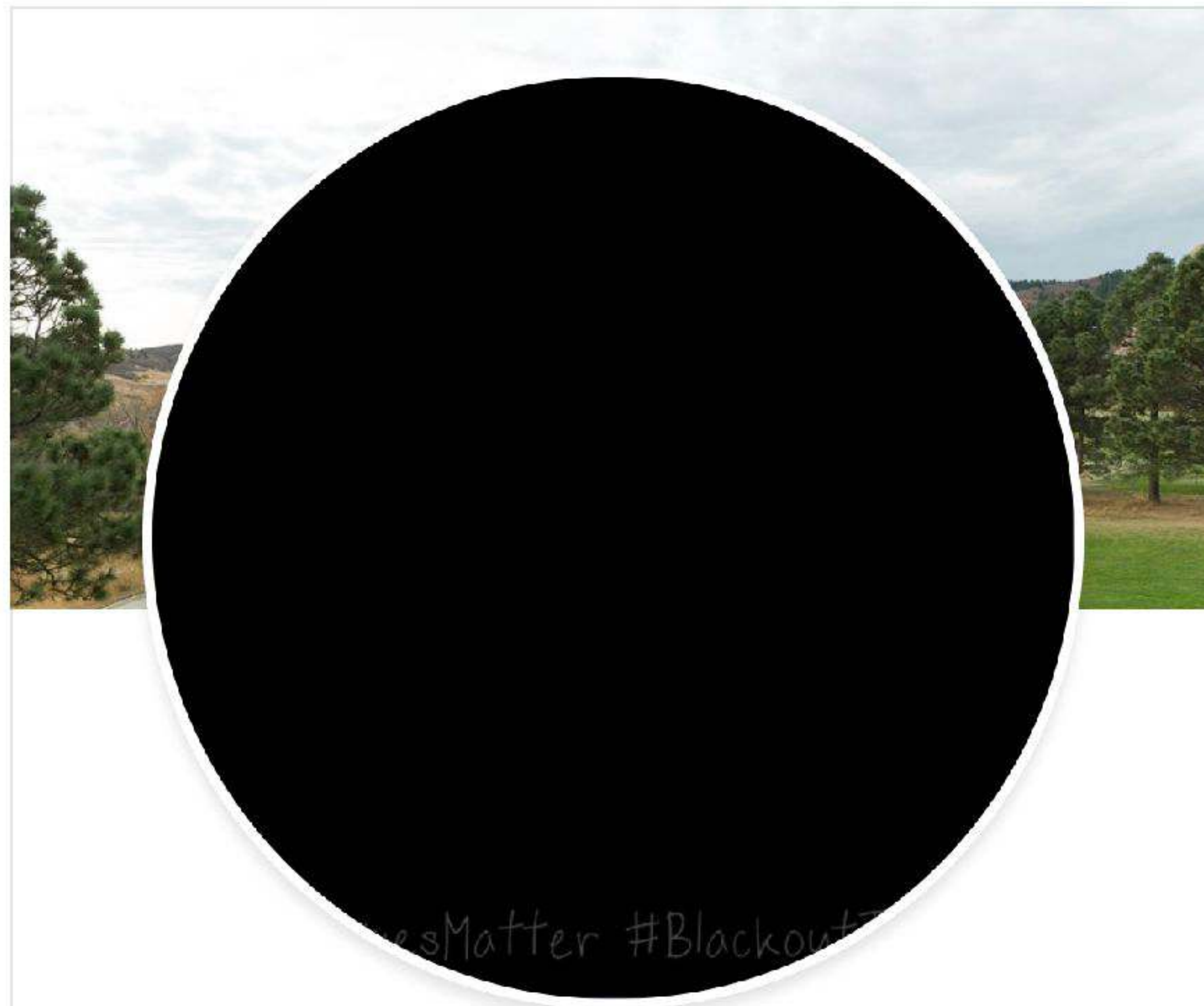




**rst** updated her profile picture.



8 hrs · 





**A Good Time  
to Listen**



# **Perspectives**

**Stories and ideas  
from Congregants**



# Depth

**Perspectives on the  
depth of bigotry, social  
injustice and economic  
impact**



# Action Steps



# Individuals & Churches

- *Can do*
- *Shouldn't do*
- *Is blackout Tuesday the best answer?*  
*Blackout of image on social media?*
- *Help clean up*





Christianity Today

10 hrs · 🌐



Tonight, before I came here, I re-read what Martin Luther King Jr. said about white moderates. I read it because I think King is speaking directly to people like me.

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion," King wrote, while sitting in an Alabama jail, "that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

I made a commitment years ago to fight my natural preference for order and seek justice instead, so that those words would never be true of me



# Apathy sides with the abusers —Fletch

CT on Social Media



**Tim Samuel**



# **Racial Healing**

***There are three forces against civic unity that persistently assail our country over and over again. Polarization caused by fear, politicization fueled by anger, and radicalization inflamed by injustice.***

***Dr. David Anderson***





# Gracism



***GRACISM masks at [info@AndersonSpeaks.com](mailto:info@AndersonSpeaks.com)***

**XPastor.org**



# **5 Actionable Steps**

- 1. Stay in relationships with others who are different than you across color lines and don't revert to racial isolation.***
- 2. Speak up and support those who are African Americans as they are hit the hardest by systemic racism.***
- 3. Speak to your own racial group to help them process their perspectives and pain in a way that will help them move toward Gracism.***
- 4. Serve or donate to any reputable organization that has been committed to overturning and uprooting racism.***
- 5. Sensibly protests, but do not riot, loot, or break the law.***



**Mike Gould**



**Fletch**





**Sign reads**  
**“I wish**  
**America**  
**loved black**  
**people the**  
**way they**  
**love black**  
**culture.”**

**Instagram post**



# **Steps for Church Leaders**

- 1. Listen to others in your community.***
- 2. Diversify hiring at the top and on stage.***
- 3. Partner with churches of other cultures.***
- 4. Effectively serve the disenfranchised.***
- 5. Step up and speak to the bullies.***



**Apathy**  
**sides with the**  
**abusers**