



## Confirmative Action

February 12 is Race Reconciliation Sunday. Forgiveness and reconciliation are definitely needed in our culture and society.

Christians should be in the vanguard of this effort. We should be intentional in our words and actions concerning this matter. We can defend the past or defuse the present, but we must define the future in a Christian way — The Way, as in the New Testament.

“Affirmative Action” has been a tool utilized to deal with racial inequity. I am recommending “Confirmative Action.” If we have a Biblical World View, we must “confirm” and live out the teachings of the Word of God. We start with (1) Creation. We did not evolve. God created the human race in His own image and likeness. Every human being has this image.

Every human being is the crown of creation. We did not lose this image in the fall of Adam and Eve. Our nature fell and became sinful, but every human being still has this image (Genesis 9:6 and 1 Corinthians 11:7). Therefore, every human being deserves respect and courtesy if we take “Confirmative Action.”

If we confirm the (2) Crucifixion, we must value every human being. I understand — no, I am aware that certain theologians believe in a limited atonement — that Jesus only died for some human beings, only loves some, and only wants some to be saved. I could not disagree more. Jesus “tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

How can I mistreat someone Jesus died for?

If we obey the (3) Commission, we will seek reconciliation for every human being with Jesus. If we are in a right relationship with Jesus, we will be right with our fellow man. The Great Commission is universal — our love cannot be limited. God does not pick and choose — “not willing for any to perish” (2 Peter 3:9). We cannot pick and choose — prejudice and bigotry are sins. If our goal is to evangelize and disciple every human being, we should not mistreat anyone but befriend everyone. If we take the Great Commission seriously, we will be part of the solution to this problem, not part of the problem.

When we consider (4) Church according to Paul, there should be no discrimination. The great mystery he makes known is that Jew and Gentile are to be one in the Body of Christ in the local church. With Jew and Gentile, there are racial, religious, and relationship differences. Yet, they are to be one in Christ. If two individuals, regardless of

how different they may be, are both saved, they have the same Holy Spirit abiding in them, and they are brothers in Christ and children in the family of God.

When we have the love of Christ, (5) Compassion, in our hearts, the Bible says we can love even our enemy. Surely, we can love our neighbor, our co-worker, our fellow citizen. The Good Samaritan climbed over many obstacles in order to climb down into the ditch to help his fellow man — a Jew. “God is love” (1 John 4:8). “The love of Christ constrains us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). The Golden Rule has no exceptions (Matthew 7:12). Agape love calls us to “Confirmative Action.” The second greatest commandment — “Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39) — calls us to reconciliation. If you hate anyone, you have committed murder in your heart (Matthew 5:22). The fruit of the Spirit is (singular verb) love. “Confirmative Action” does not loathe those around us but will love them.

Biblical (6) Commands will call us to “Confirmative

Action.” James chapter 2 commands us to not have respect of persons because God has no respect of persons. It sounds ridiculous to mistreat someone because of the color of their eyes or the color of their hair — how foolish. Conservatives pride themselves on giving the Bible top priority over culture and tradition — so quit using cultural arguments to defend practices that are not Bible based. What Jesus says is more important than what your grandfather said. I would call all of us (including me) to “Confirmative Action.” The last time I checked, all means all. Let him that is without sin cast the first stone. The prefix “con” can mean “with.” With firm obedience to the Word of God, we can move toward Racial Reconciliation. “Confirmative Action” will be Christian Action.

We want to be available to your church, your youth, your senior citizens, your men’s and women’s ministries, your association — please contact us if we can help in any way.

*Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.*

### Need a light?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

“But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name.” (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person’s address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.