

DEVOTIONAL

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the Middle Ground

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." ~II Timothy 2:24-26

Who is the Lord's servant? All those whether parent or child, pastor or member of a congregation, those of us who have been called by his name. We have been called to lead in the contexts in which the Lord has placed us. And how has he called us to do this? He calls us to patience, to gentle instruction, and to love.

This past weekend, we were blessed with the opportunity to, in person and virtually, discuss this question: How can we listen, love, and lead in a time of racial conflict? The answer is simple but the task is complex. We do this by leading as Jesus has led and is leading us--not just those who see as we do but also those whose eyes have not been opened. God grant us the wisdom, the patience, and the Christian love to do so.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you so much for the blessings of our conference

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past weekend. All the wonderful people you brought together and the many people were able to join us in-person and virtually were a gift for which we are grateful. We thank you for providing this opportunity to have difficult but necessary conversations, to enjoy worship and fellowship, and to glorify you in this setting.

Please provide safe travels to all our attendees as they head back to their homes. We ask that you would continue to help us all to keep having these conversations. Help us keep you at the center of our lives and in our conversations with others. Please give us the courage to stand up boldly with your love and your truth. Help us not to just hear and read your words, but to live our lives changed by your gospel.

In your name we pray, Amen.

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