

Public Saints Speak Up

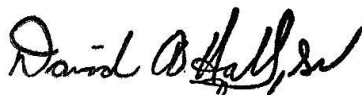
This evening we meet to discuss the mass killings across America. We are not challenged about the inviolability of life! What can the Church do? We are not here to stir high volumes of rhetoric or cry in the wake of tremendous anxiety. There needs to be a concerted and formal effort by the Church to address these troubled times. America is engaged in a deeply moral problem. America could easily become divided into camps along political, racial, ethnic and social lines that will yield more violence and recriminations. What is the answer to the problem?

Some say the answer is more comprehensive background checks, gun safety legislation, bans on high velocity assault weapons, or solving the growing alienation of the White race that produces White Nationalism and hatred of people of color. Lastly, even the language of this current president should be altered. The answer is clearly complex and a matter of conscience.

Believe me, if the Sandy Hook massacre didn't change minds or the understanding of the Second amendment, nothing will. Evidence of how deeply entrenched the problem can be seen in the recent killings at Walmarts in Southaven, MS and El Paso, TX and in the Dayton, Ohio Entertainment District.

Pastors, you nor I can be absolute pacifists against the backdrop of this situation. There needs to be a strategy of spiritual proportion. Our greatest prerogative is spiritual. The Word of God is our principle that delivers a comprehensive standard of righteousness. It is upon the Word of God we stand! There is no humanistic program that can solve this issue. These killings are abhorrent and an intrinsic evil that must not be politicized, trivialized nor must religious people be encouraged to seek a symbiotic settlement with evil. These killings must stop, and our society redeemed from the impending destruction.

It is time to call the fast!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Allen Hall, Sr." in a cursive script.

Bishop David Allen Hall, Sr.
Prelate, Tennessee Headquarters
Church Of God In Christ

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We offer condolences and prayers to the cities of Southaven, MS, El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH and to those in the distant past who have suffered similar tragic lose.

Discussion Points

1. The Unity of Church Of God In Christ Pastors and Congregations concerning the mass killings with the hope of encouraging the entire denomination to do the same worldwide.
2. Institution of a period of Fasting and Praying for the Nation.
3. The embrace of other reformations and the need for spiritual commitment to solving this problem across ecumenical lines.
4. To consider legislative action at a state level in relation to guns regulations, background checks, and possible elimination of guns such as AR-15s and AK-47s.
5. The placement of White Supremacist groups on the terrorist list.
6. Create through spirituality a new cultural focus, dialogue and collaboration between racial and ethnic groups for establishing a more humane immigration policy.
7. To establish a clarion approach for solving black on black homicide, ie. Better financial and educational opportunities for challenged black American youth and proper sentencing guidelines for those who deserve imprisonment.