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Our Roles in Building the Beloved Community

Jason Terrell, Profound Gentlemen [jason@profoundgentlemen.org]

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 10:44 AM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)
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Since Ahmad Avery was murdered, I have been in a spirit of apathy. The weight of watching a Black man being hunted in Georgia's streets was overwhelming. Hearing Breonna Taylor's story just chiseled another chip into my stone of sensitivity.

Something was different about George Floyd. His murder has been the first time that I have felt something in a while. It's a high-level emotional combination of being enraged and dejected. His death has touched every part of my life.

I take daily walks around my neighborhood with my 10-month old son. My wife uses this time to take a quick nap, tired from juggling motherhood and work. She hugged me on Sunday and told me to turn on my phone tracker so she could make sure I am safe. Her sleep was restless.

There is a deep cry in my household and within Profound Gentlemen's Beloved Community. In the past few days, we have received an outpour of statements of hurt, words of support, and contributions to our work. Words and gifts from community members, partners, educators, and board members are demonstrations of an honest and authentic form of advocacy. It pushes me to rethink about my contribution to equity, shared liberation, inclusion, and justice.

Inherently, there are aspects of identity that are both political and privileged - Black, Male, Black conscious, Southern, Christian, Straight. I have me access to move in spaces that many can't because I am a Straight Christian Man but have also been subject to judgment because of my Blackness. I have never hidden my story and have always leaned into work where I could advocate for my community. Upon reflection, I realize that relying solely on my identity is not enough. I have to leverage my position and the unique genius, identity, and stories of everyone to reach shared liberation, especially of those who are most marginalized and looked over.

I have been reflecting and asking myself: what are my values, how can I be aligned

and in right relationship with them, what are the needs of the communities who anchor me, and what can I offer with my full energy?

Our roles in this movement will not all look the same. At PG we have been using [a tool made by Deepa Iyer](#) to help us uncover each of our roles in creating a Beloved Community Ecosystem.

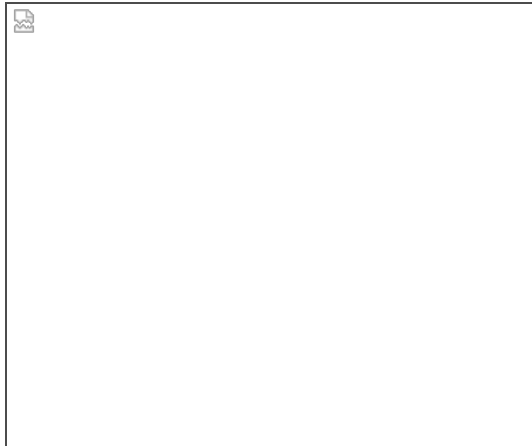
I invite you to also use this tool with your team, household, or during personal reflection time. If you do use the framework and the reflection guide, I would love to know what you uncover about your role in the Beloved Community Ecosystem. Contact me anytime at jason@profoundgentlemen.org or 404-914-4659 to get proximate and talk further.

Thank you for using your positions and privilege to fight for what's right.

Asante,

Jason Terrell
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Profound Gentlemen

More PG Updates & Resources



- [Mapping our Social Change Roles in a Time of Crisis](#) by Deepa Iyer
- [The JUST Podcast: Philanthropy Exists Because Justice Does Not](#)- Features Dorian Burton, Assistant Executive Director of The William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust
- [IAMABLACKMALEEDUCATOR Blog](#): Black Males are Teaching Social Studies to empower Social Justice



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