



Fulfillment Hour
June 6, 2021

The Church's Response to Gun Violence in Our Community

Black-on-Black Crimes

Present Reality: Five (5) young black individuals have been shot to death in Kalamazoo so far in 2021 and 27 others have been wounded by gun fire. Some are now paralyzed for life because of their injury. All of these crimes have been done by other black individuals on the streets and in the neighborhoods of our city. Friday night, June 4, 2021, a fourteen-year-old black teenager was shot while sitting on his porch.

Individuals are shooting firearms during the middle of the day at each other, at houses, at fleeing cars, and at individuals walking on the streets. They capture the footage and then post it on Facebook. Many pose with an assorted array of weapons.

There are now mobile nuisance parties weekly late at night on neighborhood streets that attract up to 1000 people or more, blocking driveways and streets of the residents of those streets. Many of these street parties turn violent with shots being fired into the crowd and of course frightening the residents. There have been occasions when the ambulance has been inhibited from rendering help to a shot individual due to the violence of the crowds.

It is of my opinion that the vast majority of our citizens are not aware to the gravity of this situation and its impact on our neighborhoods. Therefore, it is time for those who care about safety for

families, children, and the welfare of our neighborhoods to speak up. It is time for the violence to **STOP!**

It is time for the church and the caring community to stand up and say **NO MORE**, not in our neighborhoods! So, what is the church's response to gun violence in our community and black-on-black crime?

- Identify the enemy—[Galatians 5:19-21](#), [John 10:10a](#)
- Initiate the Bible response—[Jeremiah 29:7](#), [Proverb 31:8-9](#)
- Identify our behavior—[Matthew 5:9](#), [Nehemiah 1:4-11](#)