

National Black Church Initiative

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September 15, 2014
For Immediate Release

NBCI's Message to all Couples: End Violence *Organization Urges October to Serve as "Reassess Your Relationship" Month*

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a coalition of 34,000 African American churches constituting 15.7 million members condemns the recent violent incident with Ray Rice and his wife, and reminds its membership that this type of behavior highlights a crisis evolving across all relationships, including black marriages.

Domestic violence, be it with physical blows or otherwise, has become too prominent in our society. NBCI is pleading with all couples, who are in or outside of the church, not to engage in violence, ever. Christ is the answer to whatever ails a bad relationship.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI President, reflected on the recent string of public incidents saying, "What Ray Rice did to his wife was wrong and no one can say otherwise. He should not however be condemned to death, but he should pay a price. Wrong actions amount to evil actions, and there is no good in evil. But in the church believes in redemption, so we offer Mr. Rice and his wife and all those who are in any form of relationship the loving teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He comes with love and no violence. We want every couple around the world to take the month of October to assess their relationship. Try to understand if your relationship is healthy or not – and part ways if need be."

Domestic violence is at a point of epidemic proportions that threatens the foundation of our society. This is wrong and completely unacceptable. Our message speaks to every man in the church starting from the pulpit down. It is wrong to hit a woman and it is wrong to hit a man. The church is pleading with its members to seek counseling and other nonviolent strategies. Those who are outside of the church should know that if you continue your relationship without the protection of God it will end in some form of violence. We plead with everyone for the sake

of Christ to come to church and accept Christ as your Lord and Savior and avoid the path to destruction.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.

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