



E D W A R D S

Ray Edwards Show, Episode 467

Let's talk about George Floyd

[00:00:00] Male Announce: *Ray Edwards Show* Episode 467. Let's talk about George Floyd.

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The Ray Edwards show. This is the podcast for prosperity with purpose.

[00:00:18] Ray Edwards: These are interesting times to say the very least that we're living. When I saw the story about George Floyd appear in my social media feed, I was stunned and I didn't really know what to say. After giving it a couple of days thought and reading what other people had to say and listening to other views, I decided to invite my friend, Dr. Frederick Jones to discuss this matter. That's before us. That's so important. Dr Fred is a writer, a professor, a publishing strategist. He's published seven bestselling books, both traditionally and professionally and multiple Amazon number one best selling author, attorney and professor, and he is also my friend and I'm so glad to have him on the show today to talk about what we're experiencing right now as a country and as a people.

[00:01:02] Dr. Fred Jones: Ray, I want to thank you for the opportunity. One of the things that I've always loved about you is your transparency, your authenticity. And so I would love to just share with you just like that. So my wife and I were just kinda taking it easy enjoying our Sunday morning, spent a lot of time going through Facebook and being very strategic with what we post and what we say. Being very mindful of our community and our audience. And your name showed up on my phone. I showed it to my wife. We was watching a movie. I said, Ray Edwards, Ray Edwards and, I have a habit of anytime my coach calls me, I'm answering that call. I just believe that if I'm going to be in your program, if I'm going to work with you, if I'm going to follow, I need to respond. Now I wish I did all my homework the same way, but I'm working on it. I'm working on it. But the moment that we saw your name and I moved on and I came away to talk to you about it, I said wow. And after I spoke with you, I came back. I said that was Ray. He called. She says, Fred, I've been actually waiting for him to give you a call. Your call helped us. You've heard it said people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. And sometime it's not how much we say or what we do as much as it is if we just acknowledge the moment. And so I want to thank you

for the call and thank you for acknowledging the moment and I'm glad to be here having this conversation with you because I believe it's an opportunity for us.

[00:02:49] Ray: Why do you say that? What's the opportunity we have?

[00:02:52] Dr. Fred Jones: The opportunity is one of experience. When you can experience my pain as close as possible to the reality of my pain, then your life experience changes. If you truly care about me and when you care as you've done right here and shown, then you will take action. When you take action on behalf of someone whose actions have been ignored, the reaction and the result is going to be different. Wow. And that is what I see happening now across our nation.

[00:03:43] Ray: Talk to me more about that. I mean, you've seen this coming. This is not a surprise to you.

[00:03:49] Dr. Fred Jones: I have, I have. I'm 60 years old and born February the fifth 1960 I was born in the middle of the city, ends the boycotts back then and over the 60 years of living, I've had to manage how I communicate, how I relate, how I respect, how I interact with law enforcement in order to stay alive even as something as a speeding ticket. For example, Ray, about three months ago. No, it was like December, November, I got pulled over in Pineville, Louisiana. Now I want you to hear this. The driver hit me from behind. I got hit from behind and the rule of law, normally if you get hit from behind, the other person's wrong.

[00:04:41] Ray: Right.

[00:04:43] Dr. Fred Jones: Who got charged, who got chewed out on the side of the road and who got written up and arrested? I did. You say, how did it happen? That's just un-explainable. I told my story, she told her story and they didn't believe me. And they brought in the supervisor and I'm like, sir, I didn't do anything, she hit me. You know, long story short, I got arrested, but I had to hire a lawyer to get that all cleared away.

[00:05:17] Ray: You got arrested?

[00:05:19] Dr. Fred Jones: They didn't take me to jail. They wrote up the arrest, took a mugshot of me and I had to get a lawyer to get that all worked out.

[00:05:30] Ray: Unbelievable.

[00:05:31] Dr. Fred Jones: But the opportunity, right, the opportunity is this, here's a Benjamin Franklin quote that I'll give you. The quote goes like this, justice will never be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are. So one of the things that I've seen that I have never seen before is that White's on my Facebook page and my community are commenting on my page and speaking out. And I think that's the opportunity that we have now to bring about something that's going to change.

[00:06:08] Ray: Well, I pray that's true. I believe that's true. And I've been thinking about what to say about this. What, and I've tentatively made some posts online on Facebook and I've tried to, in Twitter and Instagram and I've tried to keep my comments positive, but acknowledging the reality that there's a real heinously evil

problem that we need to solve together. And I've been surprised at the backlash I've gotten out of what I thought, were fairly even keeled comments and people just gone off on me and on both sides of the issue. And I'm like, what can I say to have a dialogue with you?

[00:06:51] Dr. Fred Jones: Right, Ray without going into detail, do you mind maybe giving me one of them?

[00:06:56] Ray: I'll give you one. One, one was from a black person who said, you don't know what you're talking about. You're white. You've never had to live with this problem. This is not your issue, butt out. There were not as polite.

[00:07:10] Dr. Fred Jones: All right, well you and I know that there are a lot of the social media world and people's comments online they're coming from all over the world and coming from various levels. I have a quote that I live by it says, never argue with a fool, they will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience. So that, that comment, that reaction to your comment was someone who doesn't understand because when your problem becomes my problem and my problem become your problem now we're talking about America. Because we are one family. We are one body.

[00:07:54] Ray: Yes, and we've had this problem, this divide from the beginning. Our founding documents says all men are created equal, but we weren't living that way when we signed that document. I say we, I wasn't there and you weren't there. But you know what I'm saying?

[00:08:08] Dr. Fred Jones: Right, right.

[00: 08:09] Ray: Many of the men who signed that declaration of independence about all men being equal and having the freedom to pursue life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, some of those men were slave owners. This is today. I mean, as a child I saw Martin Luther King inspire the world and I saw him cut down and I've seen the things that have happened since then Rodney King. And we can go down the list thinking we've slayed this dragon and we haven't. So what do we do? How do we, how do we constructively move forward and advance this communication so that this problem ceases to happen?

[00:08:52] Dr. Fred Jones: Okay. So after you called, I jumped on the phone and called my judge. When I got to law school I clerked for a judge and a judge, Bob Downing, and I happened to be the first African American law clerk that judge Downing had. And he and I have always been able to talk and we've talked all through the years and I enjoy my conversations with him because they are comforting and they are very helpful. Okay. So I said, judge, what do we do? And he began to talk about all the different things in classes. We talked about classes, we talked about training. And we all know that laws don't change the hearts of people. Legislation will never do it. And we in the faith community, we believe we need a revival. We need a move of God and we need to pray. Well, we've been doing those things and we haven't quite seen something, anything that moved the needle. I got one for you, Ray. If the needle is going to be moved, there are a couple of things that are going to move the needle. Men and women who look like you, who say enough is enough whites who speak out

and speak up and say this is not right and when that begins to happen more as it is now.

I saw a post on social media that says we don't need more videos. This, this little gizmo here has been my lifesaver. This is my shotgun, if you will. This is my rifle, if you will, the video button. Because what that does is put before America an image that can no longer be erased, no longer be explained and no longer be expunged from our minds. We lay down at night and we got that image. I close my eyes. I watched something and they said, close your eyes and imagine eight minutes, five minutes, three minutes on the concrete. And so what's changing now is our white brothers and sisters who was saying enough is enough and what has to happen? The conversation has to change. I love what you said, your quote, Loretta loves it. Change your words, change your world. Here's the deal. The issue is not black and white. The issue is evil in the hearts of some people, period. That's the real issue. That's the real issue. And I love America. I love all people and I know, I love what one of my buddies says to me, Burt Robinson. Burt is a lawyer, and he was a professor, he was a Sunday school teacher, I used to cut his grass. Burt had a quote that I love to this day. He says this, all people are no damn good period. He said, all people are no good. You know? And so apart from the saving grace of Christ, we as Christians believe, and according to the saving grace of whatever religious belief that you the person choose to believe. That's where, that's where our value come. But all people are ultimately no good. So we just have to get to the part of salvation, redemption that can help us do things to make a difference.

[00:12:35] Ray: What you said about the problem being the evil in the hearts of people. That is, that seems so central because my thoughts on any of this before probably ran along the lines of, well that's evil what was done to that person. But it was done because the person who did it was evil, not because the victim was African American. And I see now that often it's African Americans are targeted because of the color of your skin, which is insane to me. I think, how do we live in a world where anybody still believes that is even within the bounds of reason.

[00:13:15] Dr. Fred Jones: Ray, unfortunately, it is. The other day I, my neighbor across the street had a car horn that was going off for the sake of the conversation. I'm going to talk in terms of race. My wife and I went out, I looked out the window to see what was going on and we live in a nice neighborhood, nice neighborhood, okay, whatever. And so I looked at my neighbors to the right and it happened to be two white gentlemen. They came out and they were looking to see what was going on and I went over and spoke to them. I said, Hey guys, I think the car over to the house right across the street is where the horn is going off. I said, you guys will stay out here. I'm going to go knock on the door. And it was daylight. I don't know if it was five o'clock or four o'clock. So they stood there for a moment. Loretta stood in front of our house and all the houses kind of close together. I knock on the door Ray and nobody answered. And all of a sudden as I was knocking the two people who were living there pulled up, the wife and the husband appeared to be and they happened to be white. And I'm here knocking on the door to see what was going on with the car. That gentleman who was sitting in the passenger seat of that vehicle, I do not know what he was doing. I do know not do not know what he was reaching for, but as the wife pulled up into the driveway, I'm standing in front of his door, he began to reach under his seat and I was like, Oh. And the two quite gentlemen to the right of me, they zoomed inside of their house. They were gone, I looked and they were gone. There was no witnesses there.

It would have been just be the Loretta. But then the wife and the gentleman got out and they, they went on in to the house and I said, this your car, something's going on here. So it's still happening. But a lot of times these people have been in denial and therefore when you get these video clips you get to kind of get a real glimpse of what's going on. Video has become, the voice. Video has become the voice of the voiceless.

[00:15:26] Ray: Do you think that if these officers are prosecuted and tried for murder, that will be a step in the right direction? Will that solve anything? I mean it needs to happen because clearly what they did was wrong. That means it's clear what happened. So I'm not, I'm not calling that into question, I'm just saying, is that going to help us?

[00:15:49] Dr. Fred Jones: Ray, that would absolutely help us because for so long we have, not seeing any. Okay, the case in Georgia where the young man was out supposedly jogging. And the father and the son went out and got their guns and came back and killed him. It was like two months before for those people. That was a long time before they were even charged and or arrested. It's like there had to be a whole petition to even get them charged and arrested. So we've seen a few more offices charged, but we haven't gone from charged to convicted.

[00:16:27] Ray: Yeah. We need to go from charge to convicted.

[00:16:30] Dr. Fred Jones: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:16:32] Ray: It must happen.

[00:16:33] Dr. Fred Jones: Yes, because what happened, what we saw there in Minnesota, it was just murder in the streets and right before our eyes. And I think that all of them, all of them who was standing by there was as guilty as the person who was doing it. So they should be charged as well, is my opinion.

[00:16:53] Ray: I mean, I posted something like that online and I got attacked by about that saying, well, you can say that it's easy for you to say you weren't standing there facing men with guns. And my response is, no, I wasn't. But I pray to God that if I was, he would give me the courage to step forward anyway. We can't, as a free society, we can't allow law enforcement to murder citizens in the street. We can't just stand by and let that happen.

[00:17:26] Dr. Fred Jones: There's a reason why it has been happening as long as it has been and it's a real simple reason. Dead witnesses don't talk period. If I may be just 100% real and I would love to just talk a little bit more about what actions need to be taken. I'm almost afraid to go for a walk in my neighborhood. No, not almost afraid, I'm afraid. My wife, I wanted to go out for a walk in the park today and she said, I'm going with you. My wife, to a large extent is my body guard because I'm seeing a little different with, with her, but it's a tough narrative, but here's what has to happen. Accountability. We've got to hold our officers accountable. I know they have a tough job and I respect their jobs, family members that are police officers, but we gotta have a little bit more accountability and that accountability, we just can't say I backed the blue and to hell with the Bible.

[00:18:31] Ray: That's, that's right. And having law enforcement members in my family, I know that on every police force there are troublemakers who probably should not be wearing a badge. Certainly should not be wearing a gun. And the other officers know who those people are.

[00:18:48] Dr. Fred Jones: Yeah, that's true.

[00:18:50] Ray: And those other officers are also accountable.

[00:18:53] Dr. Fred Jones: That's true.

[00:18:54] Ray: Keeping those people under control. When they see them about to step over the line, it's their duty to stop that. That officer that stood by, and I don't know if you notice when you watched that video, the officer who stood by and wouldn't look at his partner as he murdered George Floyd. He wouldn't look.

[00:19:14] Dr. Fred Jones: The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The officer wanted to be indifferent. He just wanted to let whatever's happening. Who's going to ignore her and let it be. That's the ugly part, but accountability, we've got to have more accountability. Grand juries, DA's, and more DA's, and more sheriffs, and more law officers are speaking out. And I think they need to, for the sake of the integrity of law enforcement, for all people that will move the needle. That's the key.

Behavior, we have to behave in accordance to what we believe. We say God bless America. We want God to bless America and all who within it. And we, we, we talk about our Christian faith and you've heard me share a little of my story. I've had my struggles, but I've been intentional about addressing them in a way that I could love everybody and be at peace with everybody. But the thing is so, the thing that makes me hope less when I feel that at times is when the faith community that I have given my life to writes me a blank check or a bouncing check. If I were to go to church this Sunday morning and I was in a mixed congregation and my pastor minister, they lives message and he or she did not acknowledge that. Matter of fact, I looked at a couple of messages on television. I said, that message is not relevant to me today. I'm not listening to that. You know? When our faith community began to really behave in accordance with what they say they believe, then we can have some change. But we cannot, we cannot use our Christianity to advance our political agenda, our corporate agenda, or any agenda and not be consistent with it. Because that really puts the dagger in my heart as a man. Because for a long time I had no faith in the government. I mean, Ray it's been only within the last 10 years that I've been really active to some extent and have any trust in the legal system. I'm a lawyer, but I just went to school to get the degree to appreciate the process. But my hope and my trust of anything changing has been in Jesus. And when I hear a man like you talk about Jesus and when I hear you the way you've bridged it into your business and the way you talk faith, I gravitate to that. And I hold on to that because I know that that man has a heart that's going to be somewhat fair towards me as opposed to Democrat, Republican, left, right, blue, Brown, it's behavior.

[00:22:23] Ray: Do you think this has anything to do with people having been locked down for the Coronavirus? Has this caused, has this kind of pushed certain issues to the surface?

[00:22:36] Dr. Fred Jones: I don't think the police, the incident and that we've been referencing has anything to do with the Coronavirus. No, this has been happening for years and years and years in Texas and Georgia. No, it probably, I don't see where that really had an effect that the city, the scenario and Minnesota is one that plays out too often and no cameras have been around. No cameras have been around. And I think when we see, I lived in Baton Rouge for a long time. I was in Louisiana and, and this was about five or six years ago. No, about four or five years ago, officer had a male down, pinned to the ground, took his gun out and shot him at gunpoint while he had the man down on the ground and he was acquitted. He's already had him seized, tied, contained, pulled out his pistol, bam, shot him on the ground.

[00:23:36] Ray: How does that happen?

[00:23:38] Dr. Fred Jones: It happens when white people who see it don't think it's murder. And if whites don't call it murder, and if we say things like, well, you don't know what happened before the video started and we don't, and that's fair.

[00:24:00] Ray: I don't know what happened before the video started. A man with his knee on some other man's neck on the ground is that man begs for his life.

[00:24:09] Dr. Fred Jones: Yeah. Yeah. The thing about that was so hard is it's my understanding. He was crying out for his mother and his mother had been dead for about three years. His mother was dead, already dead. He was crying to his dead mother for help. That's, that was the hard part. You know?

[00:24:33] Ray: That's a story we hear about soldiers on the battlefield who are dying for their mothers. So this is the same thing. This is a war. This is a battle, but it's not a war between, it's not, we don't war with flesh and blood.

[00:24:57] Dr. Fred Jones: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:25:00] Ray: I'm not, I'm not ignoring the human cost. That's got me outraged. But this is a war of principalities and powers of good versus evil. And I'm saying that was murder. I mean, I've seen lots of TV shows and movies where people were shot and killed, but I'm deeply disturbed and I watched murder on social media and some people are arguing that it's okay.

[00:25:25] Dr. Fred Jones: Right, right, right. Well, we remember. Okay, here's a problem we have in America. Our love and loyalty for our flag is greater than our love and loyalty for our faith.

[00:25:44] Ray: That's a problem.

[00:25:46] Dr. Fred Jones: That's a problem. Some are more outraged over what athletes did in protest as opposed to the kneeling on that man's neck.

[00:26:00] Ray: Well, I think now, I mean I'm not the only white person who's saying, this is wrong. This has got to stop. We need to wake up. If there was ever a question, if now we stand by and let this continue, we're just as guilty as the man with his knee on somebody else's neck.

[00:26:20] Dr. Fred Jones: I would venture to say this, I will watch this case play out and if all of those offices are acquitted, I hesitate to say what I would think. We need to redo our legal system.

[00:26:40] Ray: If that happens. I'm out of answers right now. I don't know. If that happens, I don't know what to do. I know we can't let that happen. We've got to be vocal and speak up and exercise our rights as citizens of this country to say, we see what happened here. This is murder. It must be dealt with accordingly. Any other outcome is unacceptable.

[00:27:06] Dr. Fred Jones: This is true. This is true. But I think we're on a path in a good direction. I really do. Okay. You didn't have to call me. You didn't have to have this conversation, but you chose to have a conversation about it. And I think that that in it of itself is a move in definitely the right direction. And I'm not of course speaking for all black people or anything of that sort, but one of the things we know how to survive, we know how to love, we know how to forgive. We know we are a resilient people as just as a people. Okay. And we know how to keep that faith and go forward. And so I'm excited about what's happening. I think we're living in some of the best days of this country because I think we no longer can explain or excuse the evil that is facing us.

[00:27:58] Ray: So how do we as believers walk through this situation and let our faith lead the way? Let the spirit fill up this space?

[00:28:08] Dr. Fred Jones: We do things like you are doing and let me tell you the impact of what you're doing. Cause sometime we do stuff and we don't really see how impactful it is. I'm in a Ray Edwards coaching program, Ray Edwards is my copywriting coach. More than that, he's gotten to be a friend and somebody that I believe in. Since being in there, working with you and having you as a person that is helping me with my business, I've been able to connect with other people that's been able to help me structure and design and grow my business.

So as leaders, when you produce and create an atmosphere where people different from, you can feel safe, where they can come in and soar and grow and then build relationships with other people in that community. That's a grand slam. Larry Glover, I work with Larry. We're growing for in friendship and business. He shared with me his story. And his story is powerful. Leslie Nafus. I mean, I could go on and on. Doug Pew, these people are phenomenal. I mean, there are many more. I just named a few. Alicia. I'm able to talk with them. They call me. I feel them. They feel me. And us growing together in life and being able to have this conversation without ignoring it. The thing that really hurts is when people say God is color blind, he doesn't see color. That's not a good statement to somebody whose color has been used against them. Okay. The color. Yeah. Yeah. So that's, that's not a good one, but you can, you can make a difference, right? But just continue to do the things you're doing. And, and I'm saying that because you probably don't know how impactful your mastermind is. Sometime we, we got into the mastermind thinking, okay, we're gonna do this or we're gonna do that? But since I've been in your mastermind, Oh my God, I've gone through hell two or three times, but.

[00:30:33] Ray: I'm sorry. Those are my bad days.

[00:30:35] Dr. Fred Jones: No, no, no, no, no. Without hell, you can't appreciate heaven. When I first met you, I was in Nashville, Tennessee and a cliff Ravenscraft and we was at a break and I was single. I wasn't married and so Cliff Ravenscraft spoke, and he said, where are you going to be in 90 days? Where do you want to be in a year? Something like that. I said, I want to be married and I want to buy a house. Number one, since I've been in your program, I've gotten married, my wife is here with me now and we're scheduled to close on our house in about two weeks. That's fantastic. Now that's just those things, but my life has been centered. I have a family and my whole world has been elevated as a result of being connected with you. I think those are the kind of things that help bring about a change. Being willing to have the conversation and creating an environment where people can feel safe and discuss things and have different views or different ways of seeing things without feeling threatened or challenged.

[00:31:42] Ray: Well, I feel honored to have you in the group. I feel honored to have you as a friend. I'm honored to know you and Loretta and this situation makes me both sad and angry and also it, it brings me to life. It makes me feel like, well there's, we've got work to do as people who believe in the power of love and grace. It's time for us to step up and show love and grace and courage, which means stepping up and speaking when it's uncomfortable and when it's scary, whether it's on the street, when someone's being harmed. I mean, this seems so small and so trivial, but to be totally transparent, I was a little nervous about if we have this conversation, I publish it is there going to be backlash. And I realized, yeah, there probably will be. But that just exposes more of the evil, not the people, but the evil thinking and spirit behind these crimes. And the only way for us to get rid of this is to flesh it out of the darkness into the light so it can be exposed for what it is. So we can start to live up to the ideals that our country was founded on.

[00:32:59] Dr. Fred Jones: We've got to help people understand that piercing the blue veil, we can't call wrong, right? And expect our nation to stand. You can't, you can't call wrong, right? You can't do that, and teach your children to have a quality of life that's going to be consistent. What's happening now is a lot of the children of young peoples who look like you are asking questions about this and we no longer can just rationalize and put it away. And when we began to do the accountability thing, and when we began to sit down at our tables and not put our views in a closet, we got to come out and say it. We've got to come out and call it out for what it is and go from there. But like I said though, it's, it's, it's a great day. It's a lot going on now. But I think we're going to see something different here. And the voice of the hopeless is now being heard. I don't agree with the rioting and destruction of property. No, no, but legal protest, legitimate protest is what the first amendment is all about.

[00:34:14] Ray: Yes. Civil protest I'm with you. That's all I have to say about that. Destroying property and hurting people.

[00:34:25] Dr. Fred Jones: No.

[00:34:27] Ray: It's standing up and voicing your opposition to a wrong, it's clearly been done and being done and is not our right. It's our responsibility.

[00:34:36] Dr. Fred Jones: And at the family tables and at the dinner tables, all people have to bring this conversation out and we have to stand up and speak out to family

members who talk differently. You know, I was on my family prayer line and someone was using words loosely, like white people and black people. And I had to stop everybody and said, wait a minute. It's not all white people. And it's not all black people. It's evil people. It's people who are doing wrong things. So I think we need to be more specific. And there's a word that I personally would like to see people take out of their vocabulary and I might get in trouble for this one. The word is racism, and I'm going to tell you why it's a word that has been used so frequently until it's been like just thrown out and ball down to have no real clear, definitive meaning. And it just, it just is something that just, it hurts people when we throw it out there and it's just like shooting a shotgun up in the air and just wherever the bullets fall it hits. We need to stop that. Okay. We need to, if something was wrong, speak to the issue, speak to the issue and try to stay as focused as possible on the issue without dealing with all the, the aspects of culture and race until you have to.

I love America. I love the Lord. I love people. They happen to be a little bit different from me and different does not mean deficient. So I think that's one thing that would help.

[00:36:23] Ray: I think that's a beautiful way to wrap up our discussion because I can't say it any better than that. Yeah, yeah. Thank you for agreeing to have this conversation and just know that I love you. I love your family and that's it. You're my brother and I love you.

[00:36:42] Dr. Fred Jones: Thank you Ray and I love you and I appreciate you and please give my regards to the wife.

[00:36:47] Ray: I will and when we're allowed to travel. I'll see you again soon.

[00:36:51] Dr. Fred Jones: We'll see you again soon. God bless you. Thank you Ray.

[00:36:54] Ray: That's it for this week, folks. I pray that you will bring peace with you wherever you go. You'll let grace rule the things that come out of your mouth, that you'll embrace your fellow citizens with love and that you'll stand up for justice when that's what's needed. God bless you. I love you very much and I'll talk to you soon.

[00:17:12] Female Announcer: Thank you for listening to the Ray Edwards Show.

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[00:17:42] [END OF AUDIO]