

Megha Uberoi
3rd Grade
Appleton Classical School, Appleton

Martin Luther King Jr.

I think Dr. King's message about equality and harmony is still relevant today. Everybody is created equal. People might have different skin color or look different but in the inside everybody is the same. Everybody has the same heart and it beats the same way. For example, you could wrap three of the same books in different wrapping papers, one in blue paper, one in purple paper, and one in black paper. The outside of each package looks different but the inside of the book is the same. Same with people. Their skin is like a wrapper but in the inside they are the same. Everybody should live in peace and respect each others religion and ideas. Maybe other people's beliefs are different than yours but you should still respect them. If everybody lived in equality and harmony then the world would be a better place to live in.

Shanti Verma Lenz
6th Grade
Janet Berry Elementary School, Appleton

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I look out my window and what do I see, I see a world full of people staring back at me. I look out my window and what do I see, I see people living together in harmony, that are laughing and having fun and enjoying themselves.

That is what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted. Some people say that the world is like that, but me I think differently. I see a world where people who are African, Asian, Arab, and people from many different races get treated differently because they look different and because of their different culture.

For example my grandmother was harassed on a bus. The man kept on yelling, “You are a foreigner and are taking US jobs”, and no one stood up for her. I don’t know about you but I would be really scared. Another example is when my mother was followed in a store. She was followed because there is a stereotype that says people of color steal things. Now I don’t want to be mean but it was a white man so he thought she was going to take something. Some white people think that they are better than people of color.

I know all of you have heard of September 11th. Now some people talk around and get stared at because they have different colored skin. People think they are terrorists. But just because people look different that doesn’t mean that they are bad. Just because some people in the world are bad that not mean all people from that race are bad.

I think that we should have a world that is equal. I think that all people should get treated the same no matter what their culture. We could do this by not caring what people think of other and we should not judge people. Last but not least, we should educate kids about different cultures so they don’t turn out to be like the person who harassed my grandma or the man who followed my mom.

So, the question for the essay was, “Is Dr. King’s message of equality and harmony among all people and all races still relevant today?” I believe that it is still a very important message, because prejudice has affected my family and if it doesn’t change more people like me and my family will be treated badly.

Gretchen Miron
8th Grade
J.R. Gerritts Middle School, Kimberly

Where is Our Equality and Harmony?

The “Happiest place on Earth” is apparently in Orlando, Florida where Disney World is. I recently had the opportunity to go to this magical place and experience all of the wonderful smiles and excitement. There is something in Disney World that is also different. Many nationalities are present, however, harsh words are not exchanged and discrimination is not seen. One can look around and see Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics, Muslims and more nationalities, not fighting but laughing together as they share good times. Dr. Martin Luther King imagines the world to be a place of happiness where there would be harmony and equality between different races, and we can indeed create that place, but only if we really try.

The United States is one of the most diverse countries in the world; we have so many different nationalities living in our country which makes us who we are. But even though we have all of these amazing different cultures, no one gets to know them and understand their thoughts. If we teach our youth to respect other cultures and how they live compared to us, then we can learn to accept different nationalities that may have been shunned in the past. Teaching our youth differently is the only way our nation can achieve equality and harmony. We must start with the youth, and build from there, to keep our country living in peace with so many different people, just like Dr. Martin Luther King dreams about. Our country can indeed achieve his dream, as long as we take the time to understand each other and their specific culture.

Even though many people believe in Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream, very few have actually tried to achieve it and are successful. His dream of equality and harmony cannot happen by just making a law or telling someone, but by pursuing it in full force. It is possible to have equality and harmony; however, people rarely take the time to learn about a different culture. By taking time to understand others, we can help prevent fights, gangs and terrorism. America needs to follow Dr. King’s example and make our country the “Happiest Place on Earth” with equality and harmony for each citizen, no matter what nationality they are and America could be “Where Dreams Come True”. Disney World doesn’t have to have all of the happiness, instead every point on our country’s map should. Equality and harmony are in our grasp, and by reaching out to the youth, we can finally achieve it and live in our own Disney World all of the time, where Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream will become a reality.

Hannah Rasmussen
12th grade
Menasha High School, Menasha

Questions

“For the Common Good”, who is it for?
A certain age, ethnicity, sexual preference?
Is it a title for someone who deserves it?
Do you deserve it?

Does the common good have a certain hair color?
Gender? Shade of skin?
Do they judge you regardless?
Are they equals?
Will they ever be?

Is it a group?
Can you join?
Is it a reward?
Does it need to be rewarded?

Do you work for it?
Do you do enough work?
Is it present?
What is it?
Who is it?
Are you and I the common good?

He knew, he knew all the answers. He understood.