

From The Pastor's Study

What Country Are We In?

Is this the world I was born into? A world where hate and fear run the nation, where we as a Christian nation riot in the streets, murder for no reason, where the police are to be feared? I was raised to respect the police, not fear them. Oh, yes, I am white and perhaps because I am white I have less to fear from most of them than if I was black.

I was raised by a family who stood strong as white and believed anyone who was not white was less than I was; less human, less educated, and less intelligent. And yet my great grandfather married a Native American when that was not the right thing to do. My parents couldn't understand why I had Mexican friends, why I made friends with some of the migrant workers children.

When I joined the Navy the racist ideology was still in full swing, African American and Pilipino sailors were limited in the fields they could work, most of them in Ships Services; cooks, barbers, ship's stores. Few had any technical positions, what the reasoning was I can't say for sure and I'm not going to guess.

People talk about eliminating racism in this country, good luck. Racism will be around as long as people of different skin tones exist, and there will be violent clashes as long as two people exist. Look closely: WWII Japanese Americans were placed in compounds, even some who were born in this country many of whose husbands had served their country in that war; Chinese Americans built our railroad systems; Italian Americans were seen as part of the Mafia just because of their nationality; Jews were hated because they "owned all the banks"; and om and on and on.

At one time, not too long ago inter racial marriages were against the law, now it isn't legal to deny marriage between the races. In very recent years being gay was against the law, homosexuality was considered a mental disease and same gender unions were a violation of the law. And there are many people who still consider all of these situations were not accepted socially.

What have we done about these situations? Laws were created prohibiting any kind of action that might indicate we have any feelings against people because of their race, sexual preference or nationality. But you can't legislate beliefs and feelings. In other words, I can hate someone because of their skin color, I just can't show it, you can't legislate the heart. Only God can change a heart.

We can act in a certain way that satisfies the law of man, what about God's law, you know, the one Jesus told the disciples about, that we are to love one another. That means Jesus is calling us to ignore the color of skin, nationality or choice of faith.

A little over a week ago a Black man was killed by a police officer. The result was thousands of people hit the streets in protest of this action. As a patriot I fully support their right to protest, that

is guaranteed in the second most important document in this country. Even if I disagreed with the reason for their protest. I would defend their right to protest.

I woke up to a world of fear because of the pandemic, fear of riots, fear that the country I was born into is ripping its self apart. Property being destroyed, anger and rage filling the air with hate, stores being ravaged, churches burned along with other property. Stores being destroyed whose owners are from the very communities these rioters are from.

Do I walk in fear because I am white and there are African Americans on the street. I am a black man and I fear the police will take my life. Fear, what charges it, what about hate, what fuels that?

Satan Is Alive And Well On Planet Earth was written by Hal Lindsey in the 70s. If you want to read what he has to say about Satan's activity on our planet. Pick up this of this old book, these are the words of just a man but he understands that hate is driven by fear, ignorance and Satan. Evil drives racism, hate is fueled by evil. It won't be easy, but things have got to change.