

Intolerance, A Real Enemy of All

Have you ever been a victim of intolerance? In our society, intolerance is a misunderstanding, which leads to violence, biased thinking, ignorance and death. No one is able to be tolerant of another human being until a situation forces the person to be tolerant.

All over the news and Internet evidence is seen of violence. More often than not, innocent people, especially children, become victims of violence. Directly, individuals affected by violence are forever traumatized. No one ever believes violence will reach the place an individual calls home. No one even realizes violence isn't across the world, taking place on other continents. Violence takes place everywhere and affects everyone. No one is untouched or unaffected by violence. Our society remains a victim of violence by way of intolerance.

Biased thinking happens when someone does not think openmindedly when faced with different groups of people. Even on a smaller scale, individuals face intolerance due to biased thinking regarding disabilities, appearances, financial means, sexual orientation, or religious views. However, even from a religious standpoint, most religions practiced in the world teach tolerance of all people. This view is quickly snuffed out by an individual's biased thinking. No one completely understands how biased the majority of people are. Such biased thinking lays the concrete foundation for intolerance, which leads to violence. Biased thinking has far-reaching effects no one will ever see the full extent of. When a classmate at school is bullied, this is the result of biased thinking. However, even when someone takes a stand against bullying, the problem is not solved. The solution lies with the cognitive framework of the bullies.

Ignorance is a real problem in our society. Ignorance is committed on both a small and large scale. Some people watch the news and see a member of a particular religious group commit acts of violence and place the blame on certain religious groups. However, the problem lies with the individual, not the religion. Religion, in and of itself, is not ignorant. The individuals who practice any religion distort and misuse the values and purity of religious ideals for personal reasons. Ignorance is also committed in similarly ways toward individuals with different views or cultures.

Death is the end result of life. However, intolerance causes people to become ignorant. Countless innocent members of society are slaughtered without any real reason. Daily the news is filled with devastating numbers of people who are killed as a result of intolerance. This intolerance is directed at a person's sexual orientation or different religious views. In some cases, some disabled children are ridiculed, causing them to commit suicide. Society forgets a veteran's selfless acts of service and refuses to help, which leads the disabled veteran to violence or suicide.

Everyone in society is a victim of violence, biased thinking, ignorance or death. However, the root of the problem lies with society's continued intolerance of human beings as a whole. Change starts with an individual's thinking, which leads to tolerance regardless of a person's differences. Teaching children to be tolerant of all people is a good place to implement change. Change ensures no child will ever be a victim of intolerance.