

## Problems and Solutions for Modern America

Many would agree that at times, America seems like a perfect place to live. However, as great as America may seem, there are many problems in its society which are widespread, and can be seen in multiple areas throughout the entire country. Three of the most challenging issues America is currently facing are racial injustice, pollution, and the COVID-19 pandemic. If we can come together as a nation, it is possible to find solutions and heal our nation.

First, the issue of racial injustice has been a major problem in America since its founding. The British colonists claimed the land in the name of England and drove out the natives, and even tried to enslave them. Soon after, they began importing slaves to the colonies from Africa. Both the natives and the Africans were treated poorly because they were viewed as an inferior race. Unfortunately, even though slavery ended in 1865, the mistreatment of people of color has continued throughout America's history. While laws have been put in place to make sure everyone is treated equally, many of the complaints about brutality and discrimination that people of color had back in the 1950's and 1960's, are the same complaints they have now.

Recent cases like the killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and people of color being harassed in public for no reason, show that America still has a lot of work to do to make sure everyone is treated fairly and equally. The remedy is unconditional love as stated in John 15:12, "... love one another as I have loved you". We are supposed to be a united nation, hence our country's name. Only with love can we be truly unified!

To continue, pollution is another problem that is becoming worse and worse each year. Through our actions, we have polluted the oceans, the air, and the land. Oil rig explosions cause oil to spill into the oceans, killing the wildlife that live in the water. People blatantly throw paper and plastic into the water without thinking about the harm that they are causing to the ocean and its inhabitants. The exhaust from our cars results in smog and pollutes the air. We create mountains of trash that we call landfills and contaminate the soil with chemical substances and nuclear waste. God gave us the earth to live on as He prepares a place for us. He gave us the responsibility of protecting and keeping it alive. We need to use renewable energy and to teach present and future generations a respect for the

earth. We need to do a better job of protecting our earthly home.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has been the biggest challenge for American society during the past eight months. Even after shutting down the economy for two months with "Stay at Home" orders, America now has the most cases and the most deaths from COVID-19 in the world. The pandemic has divided the country because there are some people who refuse to wear masks because they believe it is taking away their freedom, while other people believe that wearing masks and social distancing is the only way to stop the spread of the virus. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and are struggling to survive, and others have lost loved ones. The American people are hurting. It may not seem like it, but God has this all under control. In Isaiah 41:10 God says, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." God is saying that no matter what we go through, He will be there to guide us and protect us. This is all part of His plan to return to the world one day. So yes, while the virus is a really scary thing right now, we should not let it draw attention away from God. This is an opportunity to tell those

who have lost hope, loved ones, who are sick or in despair that God is in control. He will give "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" as promised in Philipians 4:7. A faith in God is the only solution to the negativity of this pandemic!

To summarize, America, although the best country in the world, is not the perfect place to live. We have many freedoms that other countries do not, such as freedom of speech or freedom of the press, but there are still a multitude of problems in America. There are racial tensions due to unequal treatment with people of color, the earthly home God has given us is deteriorating because of our carelessness and wastefulness, and the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt our economy and destroyed lives. It is all very sad and terrifying to think about, but as it says in 2 Timothy 1:7, "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." We need to use the power, love, and sound mind that God has given us to work together to address these issues. I think that if we all came together as one nation and truly became the United States of America. We could at least try and make the world a better place before God returns.

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