

THIRD PLACE

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Only Love Can Make A Difference: A Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Throughout history, white people have thought themselves superior to black people. Thanks to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Montgomery Improvement Association, we now realize that everyone is equal. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent figure in a catapulting world-changing event, The Civil Rights Movement, in which the Montgomery Improvement Association was a part. Despite all that he went through he always respected white people and peacefully protested. Dr. King said “ Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars...Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been a major figure dramatically changing the lives of not only black people and white people, but; all races in the world. Dr. King helped make it known that black people are just as strong as white people. He stood up to them, and represented himself and those sharing his race. Though not all black people participated in an open protest, in fear of losing their lives, they still supported the people who openly protested on behalf of those not wanting to be exposed. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commented, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

Dr. King and his family were subject to many verbal attacks and threats on their lives, but he never stopped spreading his message. Despite precautions, He

was shot at a motel in Memphis, Tennessee during a protest march. Dr. King's family and the convicted assassin, James Earl Ray, believe that the US government played a major part in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Further proving Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's significance, riots broke out in more than 100 cities in the United States after he was pronounced dead.

As a young adult in the 21st century, it is important to realize that integration is part of growing up and maturing. If you cannot accept people for *who* they are instead of *what* they are then you have not understood the full meaning of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's message, other than, "It's Martin Luther King Day, everyone else has school off, why don't we?" Dr. King was a very important part of our history. Looking at past pictures, there are painfully few in which black people and white people are placed together. As the result of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's work, the entertainment industry and media in general reflect the lack of prejudice and separation of the past. Because of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not only the United States, but the whole world has become accepting of all races and ethnic groups.