

Some thoughts on Unity

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Recent events across our country and the world have been disheartening and discouraging. Political partisanship and discord have at times caused me to lose hope for the future of democracy, not only here but in other democratic nations as well. It's as though we are losing sight of the amazing country we live in; a country with a Constitution that celebrates religious diversity, a Constitution that celebrates differences of opinion and the freedom of speech.

I thought it might be time to remind us all what love and unity means, what democracy is all about. So here are some quotes from a few of the world's religions.

Christ told us, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." - Matthew 5:43-44

Muhammad said, "...for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren." - Qur'an, Sura 3:103

Buddha said, "Hostilities aren't stilled through hostility, regardless. Hostilities are stilled through non-hostility: this, an unending truth." - Dhammapada, Pairs, 5

David said, "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it." - Psalms 34:15 (Hebrew Bible)

Bahá'u'lláh told us, "Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship." - *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p.15

Bahá'u'lláh also told us, "The purpose of religion...is to establish unity and concord amongst the peoples of the world; make it not the cause of dissension and strife." - *Tablets of Baha'u'llah*, p.130

With love,

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