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BROTHERHOOD OF THE RACES.

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." Acts. 10:34-35.

Some time ago there was a story in the Christian Herald about a white man who rammed a Negro's car from the rear. When he saw the car was driven by a Negro he began to abuse him for driving so slowly and getting in the way. The Negro showed him his license and suggested they call the police. The white man then became very angry and started cursing and abusing the Negro. A crowd gathered and the police came. It was easy to see that the white man was to blame for the accident. He was carried to court. Before the judge he admitted he was in the wrong. The judge fined him ten dollars or three days in jail. The man did not have the money and saw a three day jail sentence before him. The Negro, Floyd Addams, handed him a twenty dollar bill and told him to pay his fine. The judge protested, but Floyd Addams insisted he wanted to pay the fine. The judge finally gave the man a suspended sentence to keep Floyd Addams from paying his fine. It is men like Floyd Addams who have paved the way to peace and harmony between the races in America.

There is no section of the nation where two races are living side by side under a heavier strain than in the South. It is men like Floyd Addams who have kept the peace. For the most part the Negroes in the South have submitted to the hardships and inconveniences of segregation very peaceably. They have done this because they truly want to live in peace

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with the white man. No matter how angry some of them get there is usually a Floyd Addams to plead for peace.

Both races are deeply concerned over the problem, and wondering how much longer the two races can live together without open violence. The Supreme Court of the United States now has before it a momentous decision IS SEGREGATION DISCRIMINATION?

When a city prepares parks and play grounds with public money for white children only, with none for colored children, it is discrimination. When public education for one race is far and away better than that provided for the other, it is discrimination. When public hospitals are provided for only one race, it is discrimination. When Negroes are denied the use of rest rooms in public buildings, it is discrimination. When Negroes away from home are denied the use of public hotels and eating places, it is discrimination. We know that many of the inequities are being corrected, but many of them still exist in the South.

Many white people in the South have never seriously thought of the hardships that segregation places on the Negro. The "Jim Crow" laws of the South not only make the Negro inferior to the white man, but they forbid him ever to become the white man's equal. Under these laws the most enlightened, cultured and refined Negro is inferior to the basest and most ignorant white man. Under these laws Dr. Ralph Bunch and Booker T. Washington are inferior to the dirtiest, meanest ^{white} hobo in the country. It would be sacrilegious to ask is this Christian? Is it fair? is it just? is it right?

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The only excuse we can give for these harsh discriminatory laws is the desperate plight of the white people of the South at the close of the Civil War, when most of these harsh laws were written. Under the same circumstances any other high born race of that age would have done the same. The Negroes of the South received far kinder treatment than the pioneers of a generation before gave the Indian. The Negroes deserve as much credit for this kinder treatment as the white people do. Had any other section of the nation been left with millions of primitive people at their very door they would have reacted as harshly as the people of the South did.

At the close of the Civil War the South was bankrupt. We had no money to educate the white children or the Negroes. On the farms and in the rural sections a whole generation grew up without schools, or with very poor ones at best.

The reason usually given for segregation is that it is to keep down the amalgamation of the races. This same excuse has been used for many wrongs practiced against the Negro. Segregation has not checked the amalgamation of the races. The amalgamation of the two races has been going on at a rapid rate since the first Negro woman was brought to America as a slave. There are a few states that still permit the marriage of Negroes and whites. If any one really wants to know what segregation has done to check amalgamation one would only have to compare the rate of these states to that in the South. Such a comparison would probably show that amalgamation has been most rapid where the segregation lines are the most rigid.

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The amalgamation of the two races in the South has slowed down in late years. But it is not segregation that checked it. It was the rise in the economic and cultural status of the Negro woman. She is not now the helpless victim of the white man's brutal exploitation. Economic freedom and a higher culture has moved the Negro woman into a higher plane of self respect. This has done far more to check the amalgamation of the races than segregation has.

If the Supreme Court decides against segregation, will it solve the problem, or only aggravate it? Many thoughtful people of both races are wondering just how it will affect the now peaceful race relations. Many Negroes would prefer segregation to open strife and bitter feuds and hatred.

The people of the South, both white and black, are watching the coming industrial boom with keen anticipation. Both races expect to share in this new bonanza. An open rupture between the races would retard the industrial growth of the South. No one wants to turn money away from his own door.

Informed Negroes of the South realize that, even with the harsh^dships of segregation, the Negroes of the South have many advantages possessed by no other black race. They here have better schools, better houses, better doctors and a higher standard of living, by far, than any other black race on earth. They know their children have opportunities here in America they could not have anywhere else on the globe. They do not care to injure or destroy this good home.

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Even if segregation is made illegal there will still be separation in the South. The races prefer to keep apart socially. Every informed person knows that the cultural gap between the Negroes and the whites cannot be bridged in a day. In no time in the foreseeable future can the two races be made a social unit; they are separated by nature and by choice. The best that can be hoped for is that they live side by side in peace and harmony. If this is done it will be the first time in the history of the human race that a primitive race has lived in peace and security by the side of a cultured and refined race till the primitive race itself became cultured and refined. It is believed that this can better be attained by gradual changes than by sudden and eruptive ones. That changes are coming no one can deny. In every state in the South the Negro is breaking his economic chains. His progress from the primitive to a cultured and refined race is one of the marvels of the age. He is learning to save money. He is allowed to invest his money and draw benefits from his investments. He is allowed to own land, to buy stocks and bonds in any corporation and to vote as a stock holder. He is in no hurry to lose these rights.

Thoughtful Negroes also know that segregation is very costly to both races, and is gradually being abandoned. It is pretty expensive to provide two school systems, four rest rooms in all public buildings, to types of hotels and restaurants and two drinking fountains in all public places. Many cities in the South are already asking seriously, why such a financial burden should be continued.

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If the court rules against segregation and the white people of the South agree to mixed schools the change will still leave the Negro with many serious problems. Discrimination could still be practiced in a mixed school. In mixed schools the Negro teacher would have to compete with the white teacher on equal footing. The Negroes know they are not yet ready for such competition. In the mixed schools of New York we are told there are very few Negro teachers. For this reason many Negro leaders in the South prefer separate schools.

The Negroes know their fortunes are linked with the fortunes of the white man. What is good for the white man is good for the Negro; what hurts ^{one} hurts the other. The prosperity of this our native home is the common heritage of both races. Any rupture of good race relations can only hurt both. Any rise or loss in the standards of living of one race reflects itself in the standards of the other.

Note: Since this sermon was written the Supreme Court has ruled that SEGREGATION IS DISCRIMINATION. Both races in the South are watching the results with hope and trembling. The hope of a peaceful solution of the problem rests with the good people of both races. Violence and lawlessness by the members of either race can only result in loss to all. The white man and the black man must continue to live together. Shall it be in peace or in strife?