

Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1954, the Civil Rights Movement began. It was a ground swell movement by African Americans to gain access equal opportunities, and rights for all US citizens. It lasted until 1968. One of the main leaders of this movement was a man named Martin Luther King Jr. He helped lead and organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Washington D.C. March. He also gave many powerful speeches encouraging desegregation. In one of his most famous speeches, he stated, "We must learn to live together as brothers, or perish together as fools." This quote not only meant much then, but it also means much to us today.

I think living together as brothers means seeing each other as a part of one's family. Treating each other as family means speaking kindly to one another, working together, defending one another, and sacrificing for each other. Doing this, we are more likely to be successful together, than if we remain divided. In this world there are many challenges, and it is foolish to face them alone. Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote was inspired by a song written by one of the founding fathers, John Dickinson, who was the namesake of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In his pre-Revolutionary song, the "Liberty Song", John mentions this line: "By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

One problem I see is that America is filled with tension after the 2016 election. We must unite with one another because we are all on the same team, the American team. Although the election is over with and decided, some people are very angry about the results. Even though I can't change the nation, I can influence a few who can then influence many. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., it is important that we come together as a family, rather than remain apart as we face our nation's challenges. I have a few family members who feel that electing Trump was a major mistake. One way that I can help unite the Trump and Hillary supporters is by asking my family members open-ended questions about how they are feeling and not avoid the obvious issue. At this point it is important to listen closely and to understand from their perspective. After listening and understanding, I would encourage them to work together with our new President to help lead our country wisely.

Similar to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statement, we need to come together as family at this particular time to face our nation's future challenges. We need to build bridges of understanding within our country by becoming united instead of remaining divided and misunderstood. Like so many times in our country's history, it is critical that "we must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." This will begin to heal our country and apply this wisdom to our nation's challenges