

When, on March 22, 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. made the remark, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools," I believe that he meant if we do not learn to respect people of different races and nationalities that our country and its ideals will deteriorate. A country and its people who spend their time fighting among themselves rather than standing together cannot thrive and flourish. Distrust and hate only breed violence on both sides. This is not productive. If, on the other hand, our country works together as one people we can better the circumstances for all Americans. When Martin Luther King, Jr. made this statement he was referring to the divide between races, while that is still an issue, it can also extend to nationality and religious differences as well.

One of today's issues that I feel is important for our nation to take a stand on, is the right to life. The right to life for the unborn, elderly, and disabled, or sick. These are some of the weakest members of our community, and it is up to us to give them a voice. All life is created by God and made in His image. This alone is the most important reason to defend human life. I also think that the health of any society can be seen in how they treat their weakest members. Do we want to be a society that bullies and oppresses the weak or a society that protects those that need it? Many people say that we should get rid of those that are a burden to us as individuals or to our society. I think it is a chance for us both individually and as a society to learn patience, compassion, understanding, and humility. God asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must remember that He is watching and will want to know what we did to protect those who were in need.

Martin Luther King Jr. made many sacrifices to further the cause of civil rights. He sacrificed his time, his talents, and ultimately his life. If all Americans would be willing to sacrifice even a small portion of our time and energy to bring about a more positive future for all of our citizens.