

Teach the Children Peace

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I walk into Costco with my mom and younger brother. I listen to the music of all the languages, voices, accents mixed together. My eyes see the rainbow of skin-tones and hair colors. I see a Chinese mother talking to her baby in Mandarin, and Indian boy helping his grandmother walk across the store. This is the diversity of races in Los Angeles, but race is not the only thing separating us. Religion, heritage, mindset, sexual orientation, physical appearance and cultures are a few of the things that divide us all.

Why do we have these borders that make it unlikely for us to pass over them? Our history and backgrounds teach us to stay within our own groups, not to try and connect with people different from us. This way of being still keeps all apart today. Why should gays have to earn their rights? Why should women still have to deal with not being treated equal to men? Today, women are still getting paid less than men, but are doing the same work. Why are most poor and homeless Black or Mexican? Why are most people in prisons from poor, difficult backgrounds? How can we stop continuing segregation that divides all of us? We need to learn how to accept and value differences.

How can we teach others to accept and value differences? Teach the children. Teach the children that we are moving on, overcoming the

mistakes in our past and learning how to accept and value differences. We humans are all different, but we share this world. We can't change each other, but we can change ourselves. Teaching the next generation to accept each other can help break the barriers that separate us all. That way we can build respect and understand each other.

To teach the children, we must bring the idea of accepting one another to public schools where many different groups already come together. This concept should be taught as early as Pre-K. Teachers should partner pupils of different races, cultures, and religions. There should also be a subject that would be just as important as English or Math. The purpose would be to have students learn and appreciate the things that make them all different. This way, children could learn how to live harmoniously with each other.

We all live together on planet Earth. The divisions among us still exist, but if we teach the next generation to accept each other, these borders have the possibility of disappearing. With many different cultures, religions, ethnic groups, and mind-sets our nation is diverse. With this diversity, we have the wonderful and inviting opportunity to teach the children that our differences are golden.