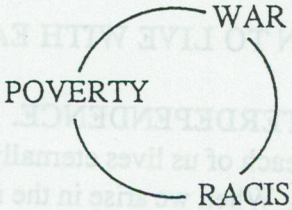
THE KING CENTER

THE TRIPLE EVILS

The Triple Evils of POVERTY, RACISM and WAR are forms of violence that exist in a vicious cycle. They are interrelated, all-inclusive, and stand as barriers to our living in the Beloved Community. When we work to remedy one evil, we affect all evils. The issues change in accordance with the political and social climate of our nation and world. Some contemporary manifestations are in italics below.



POVERTY — materialism, unemployment, homelessness, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, infant mortality, slums . . .

"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. . . The time has come for an all-out world war against poverty. . . The well off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. . . Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for 'the least of these."*

RACISM — prejudice, apartheid, anti-Semitism, sexism, colonialism, homophobia, ageism, discrimination against differently abled, stereotypes . . .

"Racism is a philosophy based on a contempt for life. It is the arrogant assertion that one race is the center of value and object of devotion, before which other races must kneel in submission. It is the absurd dogma that one race is responsible for all the progress of history and alone can assure the progress of the future. Racism is total estrangement. It separates not only bodies, but minds and spirits. Inevitably it descends to inflicting spiritual and physical homicide upon the out-group." *

WAR — militarism, imperialism, domestic violence, rape, terrorism, media violence, drugs, child abuse...

"A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war: 'This way of settling differences is not just.' This way of burning human beings with naplam, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." *

To work against the Triple Evils, you need to: develop a nonviolent frame of mind as described in the"Six Principles of Nonviolence"; and use the Kingian model for social action outlined in the "Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change."

* From Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? Boston: Beacon Press, 1967.

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MULTICULTURALISM IN THE "WORLD HOUSE"

"This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great "world house" in which we have to live together — black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu — a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interests, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace." *

HOW DO WE LEARN TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER IN PEACE?

- WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR INTERDEPENDENCE.

"Whether we realize it or not, each of us lives eternally 'in the red.' We are everlasting debtors to known and unknown men and women. When we arise in the morning, we go into the bathroom where we reach for a sponge which is provided for us by a Pacific Islander. We reach for soap that is created for us by a European. Then at the table we drink coffee which is provided for us by a South American, or tea by a Chinese or cocoa by a West African. Before we leave for our jobs we are already beholden to more than half of the world." *

- WE MAKE A MORAL COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.

"Our hope for creative living in this world house that we have inherited lies in our ability to re-establish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice. Without this spiritual and moral reawakening we shall destroy ourselves in the misuse of our own instruments." *

- WE ELIMINATE WAR BY RESOLVING CONFLICTS NONVIOLENTLY.

"I suggest that the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence become immediately a subject for study and for serious experimentation in every field of human conflict, by no means excluding the relations between nations." *

- WE END POVERTY THROUGH ASSISTING THOSE POORER THAN WE.

"A genuine program on the part of the wealthy nations to make prosperity a reality for the poor nations will in the final analysis enlarge the prosperity of all." *

- WE LOVE THOSE DIFFERENT FROM US, NOT JUST THOSE LIKE US.

"A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies." *

"This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men." *

* All quotations are from the "World House" in Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? Boston:Beacon Press, 1967.

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