

Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools

My Favorite Parents:

On Monday, our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Day. I always find the date to be an important opportunity to reflect on who we are as a school. Are we creating an environment where students from every racial heritage find ample opportunities to thrive and become all that God wants them to be?

The context for the question has changed dramatically even in my time at Redlands Christian. We live in a world that has embraced wokeism and defined the issues around race in terms of an ideology that stands in contrast to a biblical perspective.

As a school, when we seek to ensure a culture of love, respect and opportunity, we do so from a desire for a biblical worldview to define our school culture. Racism exists because of man's sin nature. God has made each and every human being in his image. Racism is an effort to deny the God-image in another human being.

When we accept Christ as Savior we are restored to right relationship with God and that makes possible the restoration of our earthly relationships as well. It is a position of humility that recognizes that each one of us, regardless of our ethnic heritage, is equal at the foot of the cross – a sinner desperately in need of a Savior.

Part of our sin nature is a natural, but not good, tendency to have “love of one's own” where those who are like us are the easiest to like and those who are different are easiest to scorn, think less than or even hate. Helping our children overcome this thinking is part of our role as parents. First, we want them to embrace seeing every person as made in the image of God. Beyond this, we would love to see them develop a curiosity and appreciation for other cultures. Finally, the ability to connect with what another human being is experiencing is important – a kind of empathy that begins with our own humility and desire to truly love others.

For me, my own thinking on this topic was shaped by the experience of living in Harlem when our children were very young. We attended a church where we were the only white family there on a regular basis. It was helpful to live in an environment where my own life experiences and cultural mores were decidedly different than the majority of people in our neighborhood.

I am proud of what we are doing at Redlands Christian. Without embracing the divisive ideologies of the world today, we have grown the diversity of our school. Nearly half of our students and a quarter of our faculty are non-White. We are doing this by attempting to be true to the creation of a school culture that honors God's perspective about the value of every individual.

I know we are not perfect. We certainly have issues where human sin scars the desired culture and we have to address students (or staff) on this topic of race and racism.

Have a great week.

Brian