

Strive to become socially colorblind



John Walker

"The ideals of our country leave no room whatsoever for intolerance, anti-Semitism or bigotry of any kind - none." - Ronald Reagan

A few years ago, I wrote a column about my DNA test results ("Reasons why bigotry isn't for me," WTE, Dec. 31, 2016). Within this column, I wrote, "Seriously, as you review the DNA list of the many ethnic groups that exist within me, you see that I could, without demonstrating some form of self-hatred, discriminate against only Native Americans and Asians."

I recently received an electronic notice from the company that performed my DNA test advising that my DNA results have been "updated." In the interests of transparency and full-disclosure, I need to reveal that my updated DNA report states I am 86 percent British, 11 percent Irish/Scottish and 3 percent German.

Apparently, my prior test results erroneously reported that North African, Jewish, Italian/Greek, Finnish/northwest Russian, Iberian Peninsula, Scandinavian and Eastern European DNA existed within me. Accordingly, there are many more ethnic groups I can now discriminate against without displaying some form of self-hatred.

Am I now more inclined to become a bigoted individual? The answer to this question is an unequivocal "No!"

As I write this column, it has been two days since I introduced myself to my new granddaughter, Emery Hope. For about 30 minutes, I held her in my arms and watched her sleep. As I looked into her little an-

gelic face, I sensed there were no bigotry genes existing within her physical or spiritual DNA. She entered this world pure, innocent and without guile.

I believe, with every fiber of my physical and spiritual being, that bigotry is solely born through nurture, not nature. Again, as we are all children of one supreme Heavenly Father, there is nothing innate about bigotry. Our bigoted neighbors acquired their dysfunctional and destructive mindset through the evil words and actions of others.

Nothing good ever has or ever will occur because of bigoted attitudes or behavior. If you truly believe the configuration of your mortal DNA makes you superior to any of God's children who are presently walking upon our planet, I humbly ask that you repent and promptly jettison any and all of your discriminatory thoughts and behavior.

A vast and magnificent universe opens up to those who accurately perceive their fellow mortals for the eternal brothers and sisters they truly are.

This past November, my wife, Trena, was putting together a large Christmas package to send to our daughter, Tiffany, who was serving as a missionary in California. Included within the package was some candy, nice clothes, money and a pair of Christmas pajamas. Each year, Trena sews matching Christmas pajamas for each of our children, children-in-law and grandchildren (which, by my count, was 32 pairs for 2018). The 2018 Christmas pajamas were extremely bright, and the bottoms contained many colorful emoji images.

While Trena was preparing Tiffany's Christmas package, she decided she should also prepare a similar package that would be anonymously given to one of Tiffany's fellow mis-

sionaries. I emailed Tiffany's mission president to inquire if he would be willing to give the package to a sister missionary of his choosing. He graciously replied that he would indeed deliver the package. He already knew who should receive our Christmas gift. The game plan was that we would never know who received the gift and the sister missionary would never know where the gift came from.

Trena prepared a second and fantastic Christmas package filled with lots of PEZ dispensers, PEZ candy, exotic jelly beans, cash, gift cards, clothes and a pair of the handmade 2018 Walker family Christmas pajamas. The package was mailed to California and was anonymously delivered to the sister missionary a few days before Christmas.

It was about mid-January 2019 when Tiffany was spending the night in a large apartment with a group of sister missionaries. The missionaries were awaiting transfers to new areas, which would take place in the morning. Tiffany was wearing her Christmas PJ's and was seated in the living room when a missionary from Thailand named Sister Ninhat stepped out of her bedroom. She saw Tiffany and, in broken English, declared, "No way!"

Sister Ninhat owned a matching pair of pajamas. She received them as part of an anonymous Christmas gift. An immediate and powerful bond formed between a young woman from Cheyenne and a young woman from Thailand. Sisters in the Gospel and friends forever.

Wouldn't it be a shame if unfounded prejudice had robbed them of this blessing?

John M. Walker is an attorney and lifelong Wyomingite who lives in Cheyenne. Email: jwalkwo7@gmail.com.

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