

Why are Americans so Polarized?

We are all at fault for the polarity in this country. The first step in fixing it is getting the government out of the business of promoting values. The government is supposed to be a neutral arbiter when it comes to the value system that Americans possess. Whether gay, straight, black, white, Asian, male, female, Christian, Muslim, atheist, disabled, intelligent, transgender, poor, or rich, it should not matter to the government (or anyone person for that matter).

The government should be focusing on what Americans have in common, not their differences. There are a lot of differences between individual Americans, but what Americans have in common is our citizenship and we are all born with same fundamental rights. Every American needs to realize they won the lottery when we were born in this great nation otherwise, we would be persecuted for our demographics or values. Thus, the sole reason people consent to be governed is for a protection and safety of their fundamental rights. To protect its citizens, a good government must defend the sovereignty of every person equally as well as its national borders.

The entire purpose of the First Amendment is for citizens to have freedom of expression, thought, and speech to practice the value system of their choice so long as it does not violate the rights of their neighbors. No society can survive if liberty of thought, speech, and expression are banned.

Therefore, the primary mission of good citizens and government is tolerance. Tolerance is the principle behind the First Amendment. We should love our neighbors as we love ourself. And something everyone seems to forget; tolerance is a two-way street. If you tolerate my values, then I should tolerate your values.

It is not rocket-science, but we are making the world out to be much more complicated than it needs to be. If the government got out of business of promoting any singular value system, then that, in turn, removes value systems from the focus of media coverage. If that happens, the people should be happier.

Almost every stain in American history can arguably be traced to our government's intolerance toward a citizen's demographics and or value system. Eugenics, sterilization, abortion, internment, exclusionary immigration policies, slavery, and segregation became the norm when the federal government thought they had the final say on values. We should remember these lessons when the government wants to promote preferred classes, human sexuality, correct pronouns, and critical race theory.

Justice John Harlan was known for being the lone dissenter in the infamous segregation case Plessy v. Ferguson. Harlan explained the Constitution provides for no caste system for Americans to be segregated in groups by race, gender, sexuality, ideology, socio-economic status, or religious following. In his "I have a Dream" speech Martin Luther King had a vision that some day he will be judged by the content of his character and not his skin color. Why celebrate these men if we cannot follow their simple advice?

When the government focuses on what makes us different, it is destroying this country. The government should stick to protecting what we have in common – fundamental rights.