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Darkness in the Shadows of Light

Division is a funny thing. We are all supposed to be one people. We are all supposed to be inclusive of one another. However, it is deeply seeded in our nature to do our best to differentiate ourselves. To show how we are unique as opposed to similar. Maybe it's a different look, or a different tradition: we feel the need to be an individual. To stand out. While that's all fine and dandy in an ideal world, it's actually pretty detrimental to our society due to one key factor. Our competitive nature. We have to prove that our way is the right way. No matter what. It's pretty sad to see, but it's the reality of our society. It's the underlying cause for darkness that no one really talks about.

This masqueraded demon appears in almost every aspect of our lives, but has had a severe impact on the landscape of religion. I'll just preface this by saying I'm not Christian, I'm not Jewish, I'm not atheist. This is not to say that I think religion is bad by any means, but rather to show I don't have a bias. I believe religion is one of the greatest things humans do. It gives us something to believe in when our darkest days approach. That being said, where religion loses me is the divisions it causes between

people. If we all accepted one another's beliefs as equal and valid, there wouldn't really be a problem. But that is so far from the case.

Throughout history, we have persecuted so many people for their beliefs. Let's start pretty far back. Think about the Crusades. In essentially every history textbook I've read growing up, a pretty picture was painted where Catholics were fighting for their land. For their rights. But if you take a deeper look, that lurking evil was ever present. The Catholic religion had to establish itself as the dominant religion. The ones that had it right. That's the problem right there. With religion, no one can be positive they are right. While, it's such a great thing to believe, you can't chastise someone for believing something else. This is not a knock on the Catholic religion at all. There is so much good done by this faith, but we have to shine a light on the darkness. We can't be blind to the atrocities of the past. We have to learn from our previous mistakes if we really want to better ourselves. To better our society. To make a world where everyone is accepted and allowed to flourish.

While some of you may say this is a problem of the past. Hey, it's 2018 and we accept everyone now. While we have made great strides, I still heartily disagree. Take a look at the events of Waco, Texas. Let me preface this by saying I know they were a radical group. I know their beliefs were bizarre, but how does that constitute massacring a group of people? While this group needed to be dealt with, this was absolutely not the way. If our religious beliefs are protected in the first amendment, how can that lead to a bullet in the head?

We have to prevent the darkness from blacking out the sun. The light. Because competition should not be a part of religion. How can we be competing if there is no winner? It allows the cracks to open up. For the divisions to erupt and engulf us all. Instead, we need to plug the cracks as to stop the darkness from seeping out. The only way forward is to be accepting. To see the value in each perspective because it could be the one thing that makes the picture just clear enough to see through the dark of night.