

THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES

CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

Sections

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

When You Strip Away Humanity



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

Humor can weave a rich tapestry of truth with the power of the spoken word. This young man's monologue was a heartfelt and poignant commentary on how sad and hurtful we can be towards other people when we strip away their Humanity.



Please listen to this impactful clip on our human condition.

[Click the Link Below for the Video](#)

[“When You Strip Away Humanity”](#)

https://youtube.com/shorts/sAmcuorx-o4?si=H-Fm6r3_9A8Eq-Fo

According to [Psychology Today](#), “Basic Humanity” is an innate capacity for interest in the well-being of others. In its more developed expressions, it motivates respectful, helpful, valuing, nurturing, protective, and altruistic behaviors. In adversity, it motivates sacrifice. In an emergency, it motivates rescue.

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, Humanity cannot survive.” Dalai Lama

Basic Humanity allows us to grow beyond the limitations of personal experience and prejudice. The more in touch with basic Humanity, the more humane we feel. When out of touch with it, we feel less humane.

Degrees of Humanity

- **Highest Level of Basic Humanity**

Attitude: We're all connected, more human than not.

Behavior: Enhance and protect the welfare of others; if necessary, sacrifice for the greater good.

- **Moderate Level of Basic Humanity**

Attitude: Equal to all, superior to none.

Behavior: Respectful of everyone, generally helpful when possible, acting according to our most humane values, rather than reacting in kind to the behavior of others.

- **Low Level of Basic Humanity**

Attitude: Superior or inferior (opposite sides of the same coin)

Behavior: Resentful, manipulative, vindictive

- **Underdeveloped Basic Humanity**

Attitude: Isolation

Behavior: Displaying contempt, willingness to harm.

Let's focus on our Humanity for one another instead of this nightmare in which we currently reside. I believe there's a lesson in every event that happens to us. Love is compelling; that's why evil must try to kill it in the most horrific ways possible.



Remember [Hands Across America](#) a public fundraising event held on Sunday, May 25, 1986, Memorial Day weekend, which attempted to create a continuous human chain of people holding hands across the United States. The proceeds were donated to local charities to fight hunger and homelessness and help those in poverty. The event raised about \$15 million for charities.

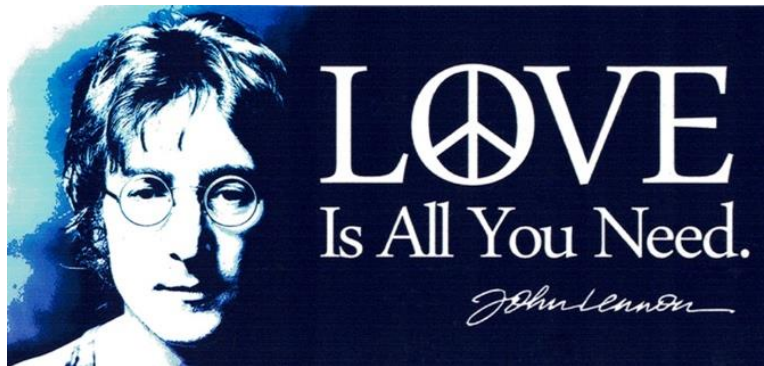


And how about [Live Aid](#)? A dual-venue benefit concert held on July 13, 1985, to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia. It took place simultaneously at Wembley Stadium in London and John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia, featuring performances by many of the biggest names in rock and pop music—Broadcast globally, reaching an estimated 1.9 billion viewers across 150 nations.

These events are beautiful reminders of our capacity for love and compassion in the spirit of serving and helping others!

A worldwide demonstration of why we were put on this earth, to protect, serve, show compassion and respect for one another.

Written in 1967, John Lennon's words of Peace were both simple and profound.



Click to Play Song
[“All You Need is Love.”](#)

We can all make it a point to do some small thing every day to make the world a better place – a small act of compassion or kindness, that could help us experience longer-lasting states of well-being, even in these troubling times.

More kindness
MORE Love
more LIGHT
MORE peace.

Works Cited:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hands Across America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hands_Across_America)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live Aid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_Aid)
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-of-entitlement/201705/basic-humanity-and-well-being#:~:text=Basic%20humanity%20is%20an%20innate,it%2C%20we%20feel%20less%20humane>

****Please feel free to comment on the articles in this newsletter.
If you have any story ideas or commentary, email us at
donnamarie93@gmail.com and tarikkiley@gmail.com.***

We are working to establish a coalition that benefits everyone.

Editorial

We Could All Use a Lesson in Basic Morality

**By
Tarik Kiley
7/26/2025**

I was once told that there is no good versus evil in the world, but there is only self-interest. There is only what would benefit oneself or



not. I disagree, because as social animals, human beings are capable of hurting one another in a way that is detrimental to society and oneself.

More specifically, empathy is what keeps us together as a society, as it stops us from destroying one another. Also, I believe an understanding of good versus evil allows us to live fruitful lives, and for our success not to be at the expense of others.

I'm not going to argue here whether the concept of original sin is valid or not. I'm not going to say that some people are innately evil, but I will say that some people exhibit evil behavior.

For our definitions here, according to psychologytoday.com, “‘Good’ means a lack of self-centeredness. It means the ability to empathize with other people, feel compassion for them, and put their needs before your own.” The idea of goodness is essential to human society because for the first 18 years of human life, our offspring remain vulnerable and dependent, which makes them unable to survive on their own.



A good person can invest in others and understand their vulnerabilities.

Psychologytoday.com goes on to say that, “‘Evil’ people are those who are unable to empathize with others...They are selfish,

self-absorbed, and narcissistic.” For some reason, evil people tend not to realize the negative impact on others of their actions.

The cruelty and brutality of evil people become possible when people dehumanize one another. If you can characterize other human beings as beasts, insects, or somehow as objects, then you can justify committing all sorts of atrocities against them.

Being “good” also implies a sense of impulse control. We are all familiar with the terrible toddler syndrome when young children have to grow into understanding that seeking instant gratification isn’t the way to thrive in human society. Children learn emotional regulation and are instructed in the development of impulse control. At least, that is what is supposed to happen when socializing children.

Another aspect of evil is the desire to dominate others. Unwarranted aggression, whether political or interpersonal, is commonly understood to be evil. We all remember the childhood phrase, “They started it,” when referring to an altercation on the schoolyard playground. At the same time, self-defense is often characterized as necessary when faced with evil.

Now, at some point in human development, people continue to internalize what is good and what is evil. Through the socialization process, children are taught right and wrong. As adults, we are



expected to instinctively make choices that are good. In this sense, adults are expected to make moral choices.

According to uktherapyguide.com, “We all navigate life by a set of invisible guidelines that shape our decisions, reactions, and overall well-being. These are our moral principles – the

fundamental standards of right and wrong that act as our inner compass.” With the onset of adulthood, we are all expected to have this inner compass, and something is amiss if we do not have it. Being of poor character isn’t usually a desirable state of being.

Ethical decision-making, as a result of moral choices, builds the framework of cooperation in society. [Uktherapyguide.com](https://www.uktherapyguide.com), goes on to say that, “Moral principles aren’t just individual; they also play a crucial role in society. Shared moral standards help communities function by establishing expectations for behaviour and fostering trust. When we understand and respect common moral beliefs, it strengthens our connections with others.”



A functioning society is built on trust and reciprocity that comes from ethical decision making. It is the understanding that you won’t get ripped off at the store, that you won’t have to fight for your life every time you step outside of your house, that others will help you in times of need, etc.



In the USA, our moral framework is primarily based on the understanding of the Ten Commandments. While everyone isn't necessarily a Christian, these ethical concepts are commonly

understood to be the basis of moral thinking in our society.

The Ten Commandments are the following:

- You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- You shall make no idols.**
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
- Keep the Sabbath day holy.**
- Honor your father and your mother.**
- You shall not murder.**
- You shall not commit adultery.**
- You shall not steal.**
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- You shall not covet.**

While I don't want to cherry pick which commandments to obey, let's take a look at the more universal commandments.

- To honor your father and mother is to obey and respect them. This is particularly the case to show some type of understanding for the selfless act that is nurturing children. This could also be understood in a more general sense of respecting your seniors.**

- **You shall not murder is important in that it insists on respecting and appreciating the value of all life. Life is precious and no one has the right to take life from others. This is such a fundamental commandment that even some types of punishment, such as the death penalty, are considered to be questionable because of the need to preserve all life.**

Some people also take this commandment to the extent of not even eating meat because it involves the taking of the lives of animals. As time moves forward, war has also come to be questioned as a violation of this commandment against murder.

- **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor conveys the importance of honesty in society. Leaders who can be bribed or who lie habitually are unworthy of leadership. Truth-telling is valued in society over deceit and the desire for illicit gain.**
- **You shall not covet means that you should not be greedy, jealous, and envious of others' success. Your neighbor is someone whom you should have goodwill towards, and hating them because you want what they have is improper.**

Obviously, I didn't cover all of the Ten Commandments in detail here. I'm just pointing out how this moral thinking is a fundamental basis for ethical thought in this country, which I reside in, which is the USA. I'm not in any way denying the validity of the ethical thinking found in other religious teachings, but I'm also not arguing for moral relativism either. I'm just saying that this type of rules based thinking is essential to the functioning of society as it steers us away from anarchy, and towards reciprocity and trust.

Works Cited

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-the-darkness/201308/the-real-meaning-good-and-evil>

<https://uktherapyguide.com/moral-principles-what-they-are-examples-and-how-they-can-influence-your-life-choices>

<https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/topics/ten-commandments-list>

Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 7th at 6:30 pm

**North Regional Rec Center, 18121 Old Statesville
Road, Cornelius (south of Bailey Road)**

Zoom Link: <https://demsofnorthmeck.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=765fdf3806a10a2c360de71c2&id=cf9788eeaa&e=e90d0cd318>

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

DWMC Candidate Meet and Greet

Wednesday, August 20th

6:00 pm

Hope Community Hall

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

1609 E 5th St, Charlotte, NC 28204



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings!

Sign up here! <https://mobilize.us/s/LLJ1Y4>



Join us on Thursday, August 14, at 6:00 PM for the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County Annual "Paint the Town Blue" Gala! We're celebrating our state and honoring Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt! Get your tickets at <https://bit.ly/4jIwY3P>.



The Executive Corner:

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley