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Being a role model to others around you

Dr. Martin Luther King was a civil rights leader who once said "he who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it, as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it." This means those who see or experience harm such as discrimination, violence, or hatred, but do nothing to stop them also help to further wrongful acts.

Dr. King wanted justice and for people to stand up for themselves and their community. He led many protests, rallies, sit-ins, and marches, like the march on Washington, DC. Dr. King wanted people to protest against discrimination and segregation through non-violent action. He wanted people to not only stand up for themselves, but for those around them as well. He felt everybody had a role in improving themselves and their community.

Do you know what some of the benefits of being involved in your community and speaking up for your self are? Well, I think there are lots of benefits such as being respected by your peers, or having your community listen to you; as well as, bringing people together for a positive cause. However, the best benefit is being able to advocate for justice, equality, and fairness, especially for who may not be able to do so for themselves in order to have a better society.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King fought for racial equality and justice for all. You too can make a change in your community by being a positive role model, speaking out, bringing friends and others together for a good cause, being responsible and caring for others. If you do not protest against discrimination, you and others could be subjected to violence, hatred, poor education, poor housing and lots more.

Dr. King preached that as long as you do nothing you also help those engaged in wrongful acts. There are many ways to make people better aware and responsible, such as putting a petition in the newspaper, posting flyers, holding meetings to get people involved to bring about change, or getting Congress to pass bills. If you feel something in your community should be changed, reach out to people and see if they feel the same way. We must all be role models and take action to achieve Dr. King's dream.

Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest

Abby Milhiser

We all remember learning about the story of Rosa Parks in school, how she refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. While Rosa Parks had been involved in the Civil Rights Movement long before her iconic arrest, that act is the main thing she is remembered for. People found Rosa Parks' arrest motivating because she showed the world that violence is not the only way to get people to listen. Some other notable people who are known for their peaceful actions include Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and even Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. himself. These people may seem very different, but they all have one thing in common. Each of them decided that being a bystander wasn't going to change anything, but that violence wasn't going to either. They stood up for themselves and others in a very new way.

I think this message is the one Dr. King was trying to convey in his quote. By standing around and watching people being treated horribly, you are just as guilty as the people who are the cause of the persecution. In this particular passage, he used the words perpetrate and passive. By definition, those words are polar opposites. Perpetrate means to bring about or carry out (as a crime or deception), while passive means to not be participating readily or actively; inactive. As you can see, those words don't seem to have any relation until you read the way that Dr. King uses them. He found a way to take things that were thought to be totally different and make them sound similar. He did that through his words, not his actions. While it is said that actions speak louder than words, Dr. King realized that in this situation actions weren't going to accomplish as much as words.

Still today, people struggle to overcome the urge to remain passive. By learning from the mistakes and accomplishments of the past, we can teach people to stand up when they see others being treated unfairly. Peaceful protests give people an opportunity to cooperate for good, rather than standing by and cooperating with evil.

While much has been accomplished, we cannot stop working together towards a better future.

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Ministerial Alliance of Springfield & Vicinity Student Essay Contest to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Essay Topic: "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it." *Dr. M.L. King Jr.*

This quote by the illustrious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was stated to have a great impact on the Civil Rights Movement. How big an impact it has had was seen as the citizens of Birmingham demonstrated time and time again, the freedom marches, the bus strike. During times when life and liberty were threatened we stood up against it.

The quote is saying that if you allow evil or wicked things to happen in your presence you are just as bad as the person or people involved in them. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. realized that if you allow evil to persist the chaos and corruption increases. It's a call to action, just because it exist does not mean that you should be content with it. He is calling for you to stand up and take action against it and when you do others will follow.

There is a saying "Show the light and the darkness will hide". Light represent those that are followers of Christ. Christ is the light. And Christ teaches us to love our neighbors, and to do good towards one another. The tiniest spark will make a difference Dr. King demonstrated that. Dr. King was that spark in the darkness which started the fire and everyone else caught on. He paved the path to the path of equal rights.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wasn't by himself others believed in this quote like Rosa Parks, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and our President Barack Obama. These were some of the people who did not just stand idly by and let injustice happen, they stood up for what they believed in and others followed.

Horrible things are happening in the world daily. There are those who don't believe in getting involved. But the bible teaches us that "If you know to do right and don't do it is a sin". As Christian we are the Light of the World which gives us power to overcome fear. So as followers of Christ we must continue the fight of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by standing up against evil in all of its form.

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