

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotes

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

~ "I Have A Dream," March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 1963

We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools.

The time is always ripe to do what is right.

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

~ "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution,"
Commencement Address at Oberlin College, 1965

Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

~ "The Purpose of Education," Morehouse College,
1948

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

~"Strength to Love," 1968 as well as "Where Do We Go From Here?" 1967

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

~Speech at the Great March on Detroit, 1963 as well as "Letter From Birmingham Jail," 1963

Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

~"Letter From Birmingham Jail," 1963

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

~"Remaining Awake Through the Great Revolution," March 1968

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

~"A Christmas Sermon," 1967

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

~*I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches that Changed The World*, 1987

I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.

~*A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, 1986

For nonviolence not only calls upon its adherents to avoid external physical violence, but it calls upon them to avoid internal violence of spirit. It calls on them to engage in that something called love. And I know it is difficult sometimes. When I say 'love' at this point, I'm not talking about an affectionate emotion. It's nonsense to urge people, oppressed people, to love their oppressors in an affectionate sense. I'm talking about something much deeper. I'm talking about a sort of understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill for all men.

~Speech at the Great March on Detroit, 1963

Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts. Negroes of the United States, following the people of India, have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later, all the peoples of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

**~Acceptance Speech at Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony,
Oslo, Norway, 1964**

All I'm saying is simply this: that all mankind is tied together; all life is interrelated, and we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

~Oberlin Commencement Address