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CLASHES WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING'S LEGACY – PROGRESSIVES GUILTY TOO!

By Steve Bakke  February 9, 2018



Here's what provoked me:

I very much appreciated an article in the Minneapolis StarTribune that discussed Martin Luther King Jr.'s attitudes, methods, and legacy. I think that, at least in part, it supports another favorite topic of mine – that there are prominent progressive attitudes that are doing serious damage to the likelihood that King's dream will ever be achieved.

Here's my response:

Clashes with Martin Luther King's Legacy – Progressives Guilty Too!

For me it started with Martin Luther King's "Dream" speech in 1963 when he proclaimed: *"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."*

I appreciated the Robert K. Vischer article in the 2/9 Opinion Exchange, *"The Rev Martin Luther King Jr. – A time to take stock of vital parts of his legacy."* Vischer captures King's legacy like this: *"King focused on the restoration of relationships, on building 'the beloved community.'"*

I'm white – "Norwegianly" Caucasian, you might say. Nevertheless, I'm presuming to comment about a black civil rights leader from decades past. In my opinion, King's most public and productive years roughly coincided with my time as a college student.

Some feel President Trump's actions clash with King's legacy. That's a different debate. I want to point out some evolving progressive attitudes that actually do serious damage to the likelihood that King's dream will ever be achieved.

King dreamed of a day when racial differences would be deemphasized. In contrast, racial and other differences are now encouraged – even enforced. Political correctness and identity politics permeate progressive policies. Official racial separation is being institutionalized. King understood this worked against his goals and ideals. Vischer stated it like this: *"[King's] faith was not invoked to shut down dissent or signal an us-vs.-them tribalism."*

It was the spring of 1968, my senior year in college, when Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered. He was only 39 years old.