

The State of Black Folks in America

Written By Todd Fontaine

A while ago I bumped into a friend of mine from one of the Caribbean islands and asked him a question that had been bothering me for a long time. I asked why black people from the islands seemed to have little respect for Black Americans. He stated that it was the inaction of Black Americans that causes the lack of respect. He never elaborated, which left me in a state of confusion. That confusion led me to think and after thinking it brought me to this conclusion. Even though Black Americans have fought for the right to be equal as any other racial group, here is where the disrespect comes from. In a land of the free with so many opportunities available for us, we seem to fall short on ambition and determination. People of all racial backgrounds from impoverished countries come to America for a better way of life. Black people that are born here don't take advantage of the opportunities that are just a dream for others. Some blacks have such a false sense of pride that they refuse to work for minimum wage. But they have no problem applying for welfare and letting the government support them. You can go to any Black neighborhood and find an assortment of businesses owned by other racial groups. But if you went to their respective neighborhoods you wouldn't find one Black owned establishment. That's the same as saying you can eat at my house but I can't eat at yours. When Black foreigners witness this social behavior, what kind of respect do you think they will have? Or better yet, what respect is owed? People get mad when its said that Black Americans in general are lazy. But is it the truth? For the people that say support Black owned business, do you always get the best service because both the merchant and the customer are Black (of 'course not)? When Blacks from other countries come here they are taken in and given an emotional and sometimes financial support network to help them get on their feet. American Blacks subscribe to the crabs in a barrel theory. They will step over each other to get to a coveted position in a company or achieve social status. Even the Black pastors who used to lead the church in spiritual uplifting will trade the flock in for the promise of wealth and prestige. Anytime a Black man (Pastor) joins the oppressor (government) how much good can he do for his race. Black foreigners fight for their family and country and have an unparalleled loyalty. This is my observation of how things are with most but not all Black Americans. How much respect would you have to a son who has a rich family but never amounts to anything? So how much respect do Black Americans deserve when they live in the land of the riches and never amount to anything? I am a proud Black American who is determined to earn my respect by action rather than just being Black. We have no excuses anymore. Just ask our PRESIDENT.

Published by Enjoy Life Magazine February 19, 2010
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