

Worth The Cost?

Editor of the Daily News:

Whether the Negro stands or sits at the lunch counter of a variety store is of small significance, but the way he goes about obtaining this privilege is of the utmost importance. If the level-headed, adult, Christian leaders of the Negro race cannot work out a solution of the matter with the owners and managers of the variety stores, peaceably and quietly, then mass demonstrations never will.

When mass demonstrators walk into a store and demand what they want, when they want it and on their own terms in the name of Christianity and equal rights, with no regard whatsoever for the consequences to the store, that is not Christianity. Neither is it equal rights.

In my opinion, the store's rights are disregarded completely. Thinking people today, both Negro and white, know that to gain an objective by force is not the Christian way. The Bible does not teach that kind of Christianity. Furthermore, what is gained by force is never worth what it costs.

If the Christian leaders in the Negro race would work with the Christian leaders of the white race a lot more would be accomplished than can ever be accomplished by a few hotheaded youths and a few biased adult leaders. It might take a little longer, but the spirit of brotherhood and good will between the two races would be worth the waiting.

If demonstrations continue, even if the Negroes gain their objective, the privilege of a seat at a lunch counter can never be worth to the Negro what it will cost the Negro race in public opinion and good will.

The theory may be all right but the practice is all wrong.

Christ was and is a leader not a driver.

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