



Long way to go before U.S. eliminates racism

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“The fact is that Americans have grown comfortable with racism resting just beneath the surface of our politics – to be activated whenever a politician or a community needed it, or some racist incident exhumed it only for us to bury it once again,” Eddie S. Glaude Jr. explains in the current issue of Time magazine.

“All the talk about equality serves as a kind of cover for the actual practices that continue to reproduce differential outcomes for black and brown people and protect white class advantage.”

We live in a racist country. Racism is everywhere and although it takes different forms, it is essentially the same at its core. Rural racists are not that different from urban racists. How racism is manifest – subtle or overt, indirect or blatant, passive or violent – often depends on the context, but the end result is always the same.

Racism is firmly embedded in the American psyche. My grandparents were racists. My parents were racists. I do not see myself as a racist, but – given my generational history – I know this is something that requires my constant vigilance. To some extent, we are forever a product of our upbringing.

Growing up, I had many, many conversations with my family about their values and beliefs, but I was never able to get them to see their racism for what it was. Any time the discussion would start to get intense (and – from my perspective – productive), I was dismissively told I simply did not understand “how the world really works.”

The reality is our nation still has a long way to go when it comes to dealing with racism. We are making progress, but we have miles to go before we sleep. The need to speak out vehemently against racism has never been more urgent or acute.

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