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Hating the country

MDP of God

Coni Sanders is the daughter of Dave Sanders, the only teacher who died during the infamous 1999 shooting at Columbine High School.

The tragedy had a dramatic impact on Coni Sanders.

She's now a therapist who helps violent offenders try and get on the right path, but she revealed another stunning detail-- she and Sue Klebold, **one of the shooters’ mothers**, have formed [a powerful friendship](https://insider.pureflix.com/news/the-incredible-god-stories-that-unfolded-at-columbine).

The two connected years after the shooting and Sanders detailed her feelings and emotions about that encounter.

She said, “We started talking and she is one of the most peaceful, most compassionate, most comforting people I think I’ve ever known – *and I didn’t want her to be,” Sanders said.* “**I wanted her to be awful, I wanted her to be terrible**, I wanted it to be able to think, ‘*Yup I knew it, she’s a terrible person. She raised a terrible kid and that kid killed my dad.’*

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*In the end, though, the two became friends, and continue to meet and discuss how they can join together to positively impact society.*

Sanders said--  “If anybody’s pain is greater than my own, in my eyes, it’s hers.” ---My friends-- *this story shows,*[*forgiveness can be incredibly powerful*](https://insider.pureflix.com/movies/learn-to-forgive-yourself-and-others-with-these-3-movies).

(story from the Pureflix Insider website)

*Jesus knew that*—Jesus teaches that in today’s gospel---in fact He teaches—if we refuse to forgive---not only will we suffer with anger, resentment and bitterness throughout this life

But that we have the danger of not being forgiven by God for our failings—our wrongs—our sins

My friends—I think this is so important to remember—*because we can’t be what God wants us to be*---if we fail to forgive

So for instance---*God wants husbands and wives to love each other all the days of their lives-*--but the fact is husbands and wives are human beings so they sometimes hurt each other

 The truth is no couple could love each other for life—if they refused to forgive

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God wants families to love one another---but people in families are human beings—they sometimes do stupid things—they sometimes do hurtful things

SO the only way a family can be the community of love God wants them to be---*and in being a community of love families point us to God Himself*—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who has revealed Himself to us to be a community of love

But if family members refuse to forgive—if they nurture bitterness or anger or resentment in their hearts

 They as individuals will not be what God made them to be

And their family will never be what it is meant to be—a community of love pointing us to God---the ultimate community of love

But it goes beyond family---this principle even impacts nations

 I talked to our school kids the other day about the tale of two wars

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After WWI—much of the world sought revenge against Germany for their part in that devastating war

 Germany had to pay huge amounts of money in reparations to other nations

It was a huge burden on their people—it caused them great hardship---*that fostered resentment against the rest of the world*

That resentment led to Adolph Hitler and to an even more devastating War—WWII

*After WWII on the other hand*—the United States and other allies helped Germany to rebuild—helped Japan to rebuild—helped Italy to rebuild

 There’s been peace in Western Europe now for over 75 years

The difference between refusing to forgive and wanting to get revenge---as in after WWI---and trying to help those who were our enemies during WWII ---**is striking**

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My friends, right now in our country there are people who actually hate our nation because of the injustices in the past

 There are Americans who hate our country because of the history of slavery

There are people who hate our Founders because some of them were slave owners

There are some who want to *tear down everything* in this nation because of the

history of the Jim Crowe era

We see many of these people night after night—in Portland—in Seattle---in many of our major American cities rioting and looting—*that occurred in Cleveland as well*

More than 1,000 police officers have been injured in the rioting throughout the country—*several have died*

There are countless small businessman and woman whose businesses have been destroyed--many of which have lost everything and will never be able to reopen

There are countless people who have lost their livelihoods –because the places they used to work have been destroyed in the rioting

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Many of these rioters claim to be concerned about black lives---*but it’s mostly black neighborhoods that have been destroyed*

The people who live in those neighborhoods have nowhere to go shopping—because the stores they used to shop at have been destroyed

The people who live in those neighborhoods have no jobs—because the places they used to work have been destroyed

*What have the rioters achieved?-*--Well there are several black police chiefs who have resigned---I’ve seen several video clips of white rioters taunting black police officers---calling them Uncle Tom’s and traitors

*They claim to be so concerned about blacks*---**but they belittle and humiliate black police officers—that makes no sense**

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The truth is—many of these rioters are pampered elitists who simply choose to hate our country---and they lash out with hatred towards anyone who disagrees with them

There have been innocent people eating in outside diners---who have been attacked—their evenings ruined—who were intimidated and humiliated---**why?**

Because they are Americans and Americans (in the minds of these people) deserve any punishment they get for living in such an evil country

St Paul in our 2nd reading today from the Book of Romans said, “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

My friends—the whole reason we have life is to serve God---and we can’t serve God if are filled with hatred for others---if we refuse to forgive past mistakes--- if we nurture hatred and bitterness and resentment in our hearts

There are people who hate our country because it’s not perfect---**well** *no nation is perfect*

But you know people from all over the world—yearn to come to the United States because it is a land of opportunity

People from Haiti—and Africa and Asia---yearn to come here---those are almost all people of color

 If we were a hate filled racist nation why would anyone of color want to come?

The fact is while we’re not perfect---**even now we kill 3,000 unborn babies a day**---*that’s the greatest injustice in the history of our country—and I’ve got to tell you—I’ve been tempted to hate our country because of that injustice*

But God doesn’t call us to hate our country---He calls us to love our country enough to make it a better country

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As a nation---we’ve come a long way when it comes to racism and bigotry---do we still need improvement? Of course we do

But we can be pleased that people of color don’t have any fields cut off from them

There are people of color who are wealthy and famous actors and actresses---and people of every race stream to theaters to see them perform

There are people of color who are famous and rich athletes—and people of every race stream to stadiums to see them perform

There are people of color who are mayors of major cities—police chiefs in major cities (less than there used to be—unfortunately because of these rioters)

There are people of color in congress—on the Supreme Court///---there has even been a man of color who was the president of the United States

*As a nation we’ve come so far---*and we want to focus---**God wants us to focus----** *on the good---*rather than focusing on past mistakes

Most Americans---want people of every race—every nationality—every ancestry to be able to live the American dream

Most Americans are good and caring people--- who recognize the dignity of people of every race

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Are there individual bigots? Sure there are

Are there individuals who are racist?---sure there are

*Are we today a racist nation?* **Absolutely not** [1st reading—Wrath and anger are hateful things, but the sinner holds them tight….these rioters hold on to anger and wrath and lash out in hatred towards our country---it’s totally against what God wants for us]

While we need to strive to become an even better nation---we are basically a good nation *with the overwhelming majority of our people being good people*----***and no one will help our nation become better by hating our country***

 No one will improve our nation by rioting and looting

No one will help our nation by calling black police officers Uncle Tom’s or traitors and driving black police chiefs from their jobs

No one will make our nation a better nation by attacking police officers—*no matter what the color of their skin*

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We need to be praying for these people who hate the country [keep us from hating them]

And we need to be praying for these people who refuse to forgive past mistakes—*because if they refuse to forgive our country*---than when they come before Jesus---**He’ll refuse to forgive them for their mistakes**---*and they right now are doing a lot of harm* in their rioting—looting—and burning down our cities

We need to be praying for our nation—that we will be one nation under God with liberty and justice for all