

June 13, 2020

You will be happy to know that we had two weddings today. Brittany and Derrick got married at 11 and Dina and Joseph got married at 12.

You will probably be more than happy to know that I found a use for that structure newly built just outside the door with the canopy. Brittany and Derrick were married there because in doing that I minimized my exposure time and eliminated the need to sanitize the church so we could accommodate both couples.

I happy to report that it was so, so real just like all weddings. They all cried, they smiled, and they left happy after taking tons of pictures on the grounds that you allow us to keep beautiful and God knows we need beauty these days.

Take a walk though your own home and look at beautiful things, pictures of people that you love and that love you, drawings from your kids and grandkids, your own drawings, maybe flowers in your yard or on your deck or patio, your neighbors, your memories.

The expectations that so many have for change in our experiences with race and racism in so many ways are not going to be easily achieved or realized change is painful and I am still not so sure that there is the political and moral will to undertake that painful process.

Sam Harris (born April 9, 1967) is an author, neuroscientist, and philosopher who hosts a podcast that I listen to from time to time.

Some people will go ballistic at the mention of his name because he is an intelligent and wise, in my opinion, critic of religion sometimes referred to as one of the Four Horsemen of Atheism but he has important things that serious people who want to be serious believers ought to think about and carefully consider before they dismiss him out of hand.

His recent podcast #207 Can We Pull Back From The Brink, I recommend if you want to think calmly and seriously about the unrest and the causes for it that surround the issue of race and equality and all that goes into those realities. Google or search for Sam Harris Podcasts, you will eventually find it.

Our preferred manner of dealing with complicated issues modelled by the leadership available to us in these times in church, state, culture, society, etc. is to simply take sides period.

Sam Harris points out very cogently and carefully that that kind of response will do no good to anyone but it may be just the response that is taken plunging us further into uncharted and dangerous territories.

At the root of racism, all of our biases and demonizations and assigned categories of undesirable people not up to our standards is shame and shame is inside of us based on what is outside of us.

By that I mean, that we perceive or find or imagine some aspect of ourselves that we do not like or want or think we need and in order to deal with those feelings we find something in others, something that we use to define them that is inferior and we build our identity around what it is they have or are that we are not.

We try to make ourselves feel good by making them feel bad.

So as you walk around your home or yard or neighborhood or world finding beauty, make sure you find some in yourself because we are going to need all of the beauty we can handle going forward.

I think we need intelligent critiques of religion because an awful lot of what passes for religion is shame based thinking about ourselves and one another, by the way.