



## *Goshen on Leadership*

### **Leaders Don't Create Division**

During the past decade, I have witnessed greater divisions among people: black against white, rich against poor, educated against uneducated, Republican against Democrat, upper management against employees, and so many more. When we look at this escalation, we must ask the question "why?" Why do so many of us in the United States represent DIVIDED states? What is the cause, and more importantly, is there an answer?

Recently we have witnessed the events in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York, two noted areas that have demonstrated division. Some say the two men who died would never have been killed if they had submitted to arrest, and others argue that they were targeted because of their color. I would like to suggest we step away from the emotion of the events and look at a deeper cause, not just related to these two cities but to every city in the United States. Let's go back to when these young men were little boys, open vessels willing to be filled with learning and leadership. Leadership begins in the home and works its way out through the community. What type of leadership did these young men have: was it uplifting, was it balanced with love and discipline; did those guiding these young men come from a divisive position or one that unites? Was respect for others taught at home, especially for elders and those in authority? Were they given a daily message that they were special in the eyes of God and that God had a perfect plan for their lives? As they advanced in life, was that message continued in their schools, in their churches, and in the leadership of their communities?

You see, I don't see two black men who were killed; I see two men created by God—two men who apparently didn't have the opportunity to learn from responsible leaders that they had value and worth. I see parents and grandparents who overlooked the time to share with these young men the values that lead to success rather than destruction, to build them up and tell them they were capable of doing anything—even becoming President of the United States. The press today focuses on the destruction of the city of Ferguson, the looting and the burning, the faces of hate. I say the bigger destruction comes from not teaching our young men and women of all colors that they have value—looting and stealing their self-esteem through programs of dependency rather than nurturing their ability to achieve. I see the burning of their young, innocent spirits by men and women who were similarly taught.

So our answer is to march on streets carrying signs that read "I can't breathe" or "All black lives are valuable," or we march out of the tunnel during an NFL game with our hands in the air, or perhaps we wear a tee shirt like the noted NBA player that echoes "I can't breathe." Meanwhile, those in leadership positions stand on stages and platforms and they scream for justice; they appear on national television spewing words of division rather than focusing on the causes of division. Those who are considered white racists continue their words of hate and division, and they focus on who is right or wrong rather than what is right or wrong.

I have spent 40 years sharing leadership skills and personal development skills to men and women of all colors around the world. It matters not where they are in life but only if they desire to move up in life and are willing to listen and learn. I ask that we hang up our tee shirts, renounce the sensationalism of raised hands, and begin speaking out against what divides us. I suggest we begin to make ourselves available to help break the bondage of young boys and girls of all races in all communities, to fill the void where there is a lack of uplifting leadership. Let's create tee shirts that read "YOU ARE SPECIAL," and back up those words by donating our time to teach a message of hopes and dreams and leave this world of drama. Those of us in leadership positions that have been blessed and believe in the message of hopes and dreams, let us unite under the banner of belief in our young children and share the message that they can achieve their dreams. Let's agree to go into these areas of destruction and teach the skills that have made us who we are today, to restore the dreams that each young child holds from birth until they are taught to hate or divide.

**As a member of the National Speakers Association, Bob has been invited to corporations and organizations to speak on the subjects of Marketing and Leadership. For additional information on Bob Goshen go to [www.bobgoshen.com](http://www.bobgoshen.com) or email [bob@bobgoshen.com](mailto:bob@bobgoshen.com).**

