

What Can Unificationists Learn From Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Gloria Ward Wright
August 27, 2013



Apostle Dr. Gloria Ward Wright

During the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, many are asked their opinions regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the March itself, race relations, peace, justice, and the list goes on and on.

I have been asked the question: “What can Unificationists learn from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?” As I pondered this question, I came to realize a profound and interesting truth. Through the teachings of Divine Principle, Unificationists have many concepts in common with Dr. King relative to love and peace. Nevertheless, I will share some of my opinions relative to the question that has been asked of me.

First, I believe that the Unificationists are very knowledgeable about love and peace.

However, Unificationists can learn more from Dr. King as to how to channel that love and peace into action. In other words, Unificationists can act upon what they already know about peace and love. Unificationists can learn from Dr. King on how to demonstrate love more confidently and more openly.



Young woman arrested for entering a Whites-Only public library in 1962.

In the world today, there exists much discord and violence. Nevertheless, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “True peace is not merely the absence of tension, but it is the presence of justice and brotherhood.”

Thousands were led by Dr. King and other civil rights activists, to join in mass demonstrations, mass meetings, and non-violent protests during the Civil Rights movement throughout, mainly in the South. This charismatic man of God, Dr. King, taught non-violent ways in which to fight racism, discrimination, legalized segregation, and many ills of society.

Unificationists are blessed to have a very diverse and a large population in their churches. Just as Dr. King did, Unificationists should use their diversity and their large membership to become agents of change in this nation and throughout the world.

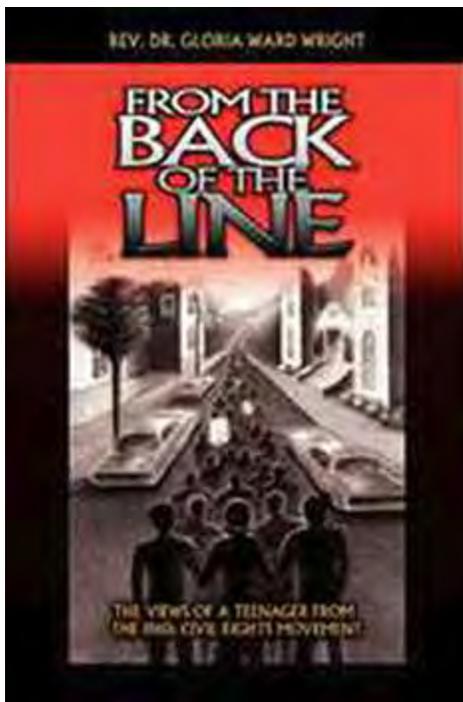
Today, it is much easier to get a parade permit to march and to legally protest things not in the best interest of people of color (whether red, yellow, black, or brown). Therefore, for Unificationists, the way has always been made for you to change the ills of society by calling on your members to get into a positive mind-set to peacefully protest whatever needs to be changed.



Crowds surrounding the Reflecting Pool, during the 1963 March on Washington

What 10 things can Unificationists learn from Dr. King?

1. Demonstrate love, peace, and order.
2. Create groups; remember there is strength in numbers;
3. Assign leaders of the groups;
4. Remember, everyone is not a leader;
5. Conduct empowerment meetings for the leaders.
6. Learn and teach methods of how to mobilize the people and how to strategize the useful nonviolent tactics in order to affect change;
7. Exhibit a courageous spirit,
8. Demonstrate love, peace, and faith in God, no matter what you choose to change;
9. Celebrate your diversity; don't be afraid to reach out and touch someone who is of another race, creed, or color;
10. "Work for the rights of others and continue to live for the sake of others.



*In Apostle Wright's book, *From the Back of the Line*, <http://www.backoftheline.net/>, she recounts how she moved "from the back of the line" of the Civil Rights marches to leadership in several human-rights campaigns.*

It is my belief that Unificationists, no matter whether they are "Solid Red Republicans" "Independents" or "Blue Blood Democrats," can affect positive change just as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did. Changes can be made in this nation or in this world. Unificationists can affect change or support any cause, if they would just take a stand or in the words of Gospel recording artist, Donnie McClurken, just "Stand." Stand in solidarity for any worthy cause.

I will always be indebted to my Japanese friends and missionaries. Once again, I am reminded of the couple, Tommy and Yoshiko Toyomura, who introduced me to the Unification Church and to the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC). I could always depend on them and many who are members of the Atlanta Family Church today under the capable leadership of Pastor H. Kimura, their new pastor. For years, I can recall how the Toyomuras did stand with me and did stand for me when questions would overwhelm me. Unificationists are strong and such loving people. I praise God for the life and legacy of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and today, I honor his loving wife, Dr. Ja Hak Moon.

I believe that Unification Church members have a solid foundation. Moreover, I believe that a solid foundation represents, to me, knowledge of wealth and a wealth of knowledge. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. followed the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and I followed the teachings of Dr. King at “The Back of the Line.” Now that I am a civil-rights activist, on the front lines with my love for Jesus Christ, I can say, like the Apostle Paul, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”



Archbishop Stallings and Apostle Wright stand together in Atlanta on Aug. 17, 2013.

***Apostle Dr. Gloria Ward Wright** was arrested four times as a participant in Civil Rights Marches in 1962, when she was a high school student in Albany, Georgia. As she tells in her book, *From the Back of the Line*” (www.backoftheline.net/), she moved “from the back of the line” of the Civil Rights marches to leadership in several human-rights campaigns. She is the founding pastor of Dayspring International Ministries, Inc., an Ambassador for Peace, a retired teacher, an author, and a motivational speaker.*

The marriage of Apostle Gloria W. Wright and her husband, Daniel W. Wright, Jr. was blessed by Father and Mother Moon in 2010 in New York City. The couple has been married for thirty-two years. They have one son, Byron. The Wrights reside in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.