Family Reunion
By: Jordan Brown

Throughout history, we, brothers and sisters have been able to turn what was nothing into something. But somewhere along the way, we have become a family of dysfunction. We do, think, and say things to one another that are anything but loving. And are unaware that our everyday actions are leading us towards our own self-destruction. There isn’t nearly enough togetherness in our household, and to me it’s a shame. Because it wasn’t just me, or him, or her, it was all of us locked in chains. It was us who worked in the fields picking cotton until our hands became permanently tough, and it was all of us here that was sitting in the back of that bus.

We must think the struggle is over because we developed a whole new demeanor. But we all know what the people looked like who where left behind to face Katrina. I wonder why we ignore Black on Black crime and continue to kill ourselves. Or why we discriminate amongst our own males and females. I’ll hear sisters say, “oh I can’t date him because he’s so Black, he’s blue” But the brothers can’t get mad cause we’re doing it too. I can’t count the times I’ve heard “dog I only date light skin girls it’s a fact.” Now tell me what would Mr. X have to say about that. Goes to show you half the time we don’t know how to act. Why do we put down our own people? Did we forget--We all Black.

And Black is beautiful. I’m Black. I’ll say it loud. What was is that James Brown said, “I’m Black and I’m proud.” With that being said, our family’s problems still, with the use of one word are getting bigger. Because we’re the ones that still say, “What’s up my nigga!” We don’t know what it does. Did we really forget that word has been stained with blood. Nigger is what they called James Byrd Jr. in Jasper Texas when they drug him behind that car. Nigger is what they called the slaves. I don’t care even if we take off the “e-r” They used that word when they killed Emmett Till, And we call ourselves that? How good do you think that makes a Klansman feel? We sang the Negro National Anthem “Lift every voice and sing” Tears have to come to your eyes when you think that we just lost Coretta Scott King. She passed almost 40 years after her husband and still never saw us live out his last dream; Black people if we came together we’d be an unstoppable team.

We need to remember prayer and being proactive are the keys to production God is the only family psychologist we need to successfully reunite and end this dysfunction.