

Dr. Ben Carson: “America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great”

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Photo Source: <http://news.byu.edu>

I always say, “If two people always think the same thing, one of them isn’t necessary.” We need to learn how to be respectful of people who disagree w/ you. We need to speak up for what we believe. We’ve allowed people w/ the loud voices & the microphones to define the culture of our country & to erode the values upon which our nation was founded. Not everyone believed what Hitler was doing was right but people were too afraid to speak up. In our country people are afraid to say Merry Christmas.

We are the pinnacle nation in the world right now. We may not act like it, but there were other pinnacle nations before us.

And, where are they now? Can we be the first pinnacle nation to learn from the mistakes of other pinnacle nations & prevent our fall?

There’s a book called America the Beautiful (there are test questions for students from the 1800s?). Today, most people couldn’t answer those questions. The founding fathers said that our government is based on a well-educated populace. Today, there is a 4th branch of government – special interest groups – that is just as powerful if not more than the other branches. How will we fix this? People have to become courageous again. This will require being ridiculed. If people become lax in their vigilance & understanding, government corruption of American values will occur, & our nation will become like the nations that our founding fathers were trying to escape.

Within the space of 1.5 years Dr. Carson went from the bottom of his class to the top of his class. We must learn how to retrieve information. Your brain remembers everything you’ve seen.

Dr. Carson and his wife started a foundation called Carsons.org. It is for students who demonstrate superior academic performance & humanitarian efforts. In essence, it is for smart people who care about other people. We have enough smart people in the world who don’t care about anyone. The foundation offers scholarships starting at 4th grade.

Cool idea he mentioned: Create a reading room with kid friendly themes to encourage children to want to read.

Socialism started because of America. Europe saw the Rockefellers & the Carnegies of America who had lots of wealth compared to the rest of the populace who didn't have much money. But, Europe didn't see that these people were giving back to the people, which helped our nation to rise. We should be extraordinarily concerned about fairness & fairness for everyone. We need to be compassionate about understanding others' context. It's about persistence; you can't just go back to how you were before. Each of us has a sphere of influence where we can make a difference.

Fort McHenry: inspired Francis Scott Key to pen *The Star Spangled Banner* during the War of 1812. Many people say this event was the turning point of the war that we went on to win.

Dr. Carson's motto: T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G.

Talent

Honesty

Insight – Learn from people who are where you're trying to go.

Nice – Be nice to people. Dr. Carson gave us the commitment to be nice to everyone person you encounter for a week. If there's one spot on the elevator that means you get off & give it to the other person. Talk to people on the elevator or that you pass by & ignore. They exist & Jesus died for them too. What kind of world & nation would we have if we weren't so selfish?

Knowledge – King Solomon said that knowledge & wisdom are more important than rubies & gold.

Books – Some people say they can learn everything they need by watching DVDs & TV. That's like thinking you can strengthen your muscles by watching someone else workout

In-depth learning

God – We live in a country that is trying to make God politically incorrect. Develop your God given talents.

Q&A: Dr. Carson, how do you make time for your family and perform around 300 surgeries each year?

You can always make time for things that are important to you. I would tell my staff 1yr in advance about time that was blocked off for my family. We would travel together as family. I didn't want my kids to grow up not knowing who their dad was.