

Abraham Lincoln Opposed Integration

“It is better for the Negro and the White Races to be separated,” President Abraham Lincoln said in an address to some 500 free Negroes, on the White House lawn, April 14, 1862. President Lincoln said:

“You and we are different races. We have between us a broader physical difference than exists between any other two races.

“Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss; but this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both, as I think.

“Your race suffers very greatly, many of them, by living among us, while ours suffer from your presence. In a word, we suffer on each side. If this admitted, it affords a reason, at last, why we should be separated.

“Even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with White people.

“On this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours.

“Go where you are treated the best, and the ban is still upon you. I cannot alter it if I would. See your present condition, the Country engaged in war, our white men cutting one another’s throats, and then consider what we know to be truth – But for your race among us there would be no war, although many men engaged on either side do not care for you one way or another. It is better for us both therefore to be separated.”

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