IGNORANCE AND INDIFFERENCE: SIGNS OF OUR TIMES?
The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke.

WHAT TO KNOW!

- There are several types of ignorance; some of which can be very harmful.
- Ordinary ignorance refers to basically, a lack of knowledge, and may motivate people to explore and learn more information if they accept that they don’t know everything.
- Higher ignorance refers to recognizing that no matter how much a person knows about something, there is still more to know.
- Motivated ignorance is usually harmful and occurs when people avoid learning potentially valuable information.
- Motivated ignorance is widely used by corporations, governments and politicians to make sure that certain information does not become available.
- Willful ignorance occurs when people choose to ignore the facts or truths; this is the “don’t bother me with the facts” philosophy.
- Willfully ignorant people tend not to evaluate things intellectually unless they have to.
- They tend to be conformists; rather than exert effort to think individually, they will believe others and avoid conflict.
- People also often have difficulty with accepting that they are wrong and will stick to their beliefs despite contradictory evidence.
- Ignorance is a common denominator in racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of extremism.
- Ignorance of performance standards can lead to distorted thinking.
  - An experiment at Cornell university by Dunning and Kruger found that unskilled people often believe they have superior skills because of their inability to assess their true abilities.
  - Another result of this study found that highly skilled people underestimate their abilities and assume that what is easy for them is also easy for others.
- Indifference occurs when a person stops caring and doesn’t feel bad about it.
- Indifference occurs for several reasons:
  - When there is low self-esteem and the belief in one self is lost.
  - When self-confidence or the importance of what you are doing is lost.
  - When hope is lost especially after multiple failures.
  - When attention is given to another major more important problem.
- Overcoming ignorance and indifference should be a lifelong process of questioning, discussing, and learning.

WHAT TO DO!

- Do not accept that it is okay for you to be ignorant or indifferent.
- Recognize that although we may be smart, there is a lot that we are ignorant about.
- Overcome ignorance by learning, reading, challenging, and accepting new information.
- Do not be rigid or stuck in your beliefs; if something is not working, change it.
- Do not accept that all you hear on the news or in social media is accurate.
- Overcome indifference by writing, reading, blogging, expressing your beliefs to others.
- Travel, find adventure, join a group where you can get different opinions.
- Be assertive, create, teach, or volunteer to help others.
- Seek professional help if you have difficulty overcoming being ignorant or indifferent.

WE CAN HELP!
Call us at 954 755-2885 or email us at DrKimmel@KimmelPsychology.com

Joel I. Kimmel, Ph.D. P.A. and Associates
5571 N University Drive, Suite 101
Coral Springs FL 33067

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