

[Intro Music: Keep it Real—KarpaBeats]

ANDREW:

This episode is different--just a disclaimer at the front. It's still gonna be family-friendly/all ages, but we're going to be talking about the Black Lives Matter movement, what it is to be a human in 2020, and, honestly, a lot about kind of culture and the future and Generation Z. We touch on a lot of different topics. You know, as a white person who hasn't had a deal with much (I haven't had much adversity in my life--things have gone pretty smoothly) I honestly thought racism was over when I was, like, in elementary school. And I didn't really notice that things were not okay until, you know, college or maybe a little bit after college, honestly, which is embarrassing to say. But, hey, I'm okay with showing some vulnerability. And this year has really, uh, opened my eyes towards what's actually happening out there and how much more I need to do to be a part of that. So hopefully, if your eyes aren't already opened, this can do a part of that. Just give us a chance, okay?

Honestly, we come away with a very positive message... throughout, honestly. It's not all doom and gloom. I know there's a lot of serious stuff that's gone down, and I don't want to make light of that, or, you know, people who have been affected by COVID 19 or by the protests, um or honestly, you know, police brutality.

There's all kinds of negative things that have happened, but I kind of think we're having a bit of a breakthrough moment as a culture and as a planet, really. So, yeah, this is a very important episode. You can also find the transcript for this episode on amusementsparks.com, if you're concerned about sharing this with, you know, anyone who might be a more sensitive listener, feel free to check out the transcripts at amusementsparks.com.

Welcome to Amusement Sparks, the theme park design show. I'm your host, Andrew Spohn, and I have two super passionate guests, who have actually both been on Amusement Sparks before--designing theme parks. But we're here today to talk about kind of dismantling racism or living through 2020 or whatever we can try to do to get out of this current situation into a more progressive, more safe future. Hopefully, you know, our descendants are listening to this episode. They're like, "man, they were like, really, you know 'in it' back then." It's just it's so crazy. It's such a, like, passionate topic that it gets hard for me to talk about sometimes. I'm also not super qualified, being a white guy over here, coming from an extreme place of privilege. So I brought in two specialists who I'm super super interested in--big fan of both of your work. Sam Wright is on my left, so we'll start there. Wright is on the left--that's kind of fun.

Uh... but he is SamVersusSam on YouTube and he's the host of Metal Gear Mondays podcast. He was on our Metal Gear theme park episode, and Sam is just a really thoughtful, jovial, fun guy. But he also has this like strain of wisdom. You can kind of tell behind his voice that he's doing a lot of thinking back there, but it's amazing to me to see, like when the going's been getting tough, these last couple weeks. He's just, like, completely shifted years into, like, becoming an absolute leader and teacher with, like, this very powerful grace about him. And it's

been like super moving and like several of your videos made me cry and thank you for doing that. But, Sam, how's it going?

SAM:

I've never been called a specialist before in my life, so I appreciate the kindness. Yeah, it's going good, man. It's been an interesting couple of weeks. It's been an interesting year, this 2020. This has been quite a decade, I think, so. Um, but yeah, I'm doing about as good as I can be.

ANDREW:

I'm honestly kind of frustrated with the shows I follow and the creators I follow who haven't addressed this and are still just like pumping out episodes like regular and like, kind of annoyed by that, kind of hurt by that. Like, "what are you doing like, are you in a different time line than the rest of us?" Like, "How are you just going on like normal?"

Let me also introduce Godswill. Sorry, this is a messy start. I'll get out of you guys way soon, don't worry. So Godswill Ugwa Jr--

GODSWILL:

Wow you said it perfect.

ANDREW:

If you just look up Godswill Ugwa, I don't want people slide into your dad's DM's or whatever.

GODSWILL:

I mean, he told me a few times that they have and I'm like, "really y'all?" Like did you even look at the picture? Sorry, go ahead, continue.

ANDREW:

You're getting the vibe from him already, I'm sure. But just like Godswill's style makes me feel at ease. And like I'm just hanging out with friends and like I'm home almost, but like, you know, a friend's home, where you actually more comfortable than like your parents' home. But his history and like social skills and nerd cred, are fantastic. And I don't know where you get your guests from, but you have just this magical pipeline of like super interesting, creative, nerdy folks. So, like, I mean, you're a good host. Don't get me wrong, but the reason I listen to That's Dope is like there's a new, like shining example of humanity every episode it's so cool to see. So I'm excited to have you guys in the same "room"?

GODSWILL:

This is great. Wow. I've never been so lauded before. I was just like wow.

SAM:

I was like, "wow, my validation complex is surging."

GODSWILL:

I feel so good! And I appreciate that. I got check out that Metal Gear podcast because I'm a huge Metal Gear fan. So that's super tight to me.

SAM:

It's actually kind of sad, because I I've been doing it for about five years, and I officially stepped down from hosting duties very recently. Even still you should definitely still go listen to it's called Metal Gear Mondays. But my friends are still doing it, but I took a step back and started focusing on my YouTube channel. So, uh, that's kind of that's kind of what I'm doing. Thank you.

GODSWILL:

Congratulations, you know, it sounds like you're doing some huge things, and I'm excited to see that. And also Andrew, thank you so much for the introduction. That was glowing.

ANDREW:

Hah, well sure, I mean...

GODSWILL:

I'm beaming from that.

[Laughter]

ANDREW:

I needed some way to have you guys on this show, like in this RSS feed, and then I'll just, like, step out of the way. I have, like, questions. I've been, like turning this over and trying to figure out what can I do as just privileged little white boy over here/creator. And you both have, like, been making content that's been inspiring to me. Like I could do something with this platform that's not just posting a black square, whatever. Like you can actually do something. You have good conversations about this, and hopefully we could make some amount of progress. So, yeah, I have a bunch of questions that I'm prepared to like be the uh... person and who asks questions or whatever? Like a moderator? I think is the word.

SAM:

Before you start, I think that the important thing and I've said this and a lot of my other things that I do is the important thing is the trying part of it. Like that's the whole point of what you know, You talk about, you know, the privilege that you have as a white individual, but like you have the opportunity to help by teaching other people that are like you and not staying silent on stuff like this. So just that's just the trying is important, I think.

GODSWILL:

Absolutely yeah, like I'd definitely like to add on that. Like, I appreciate you, like how you even approach this. You know, like how your mindset is, like, just being open to this whole thing. You know, you know, it means a lot and also, like, trying means so much. To want to do something, like during this time when you don't have to. You could be like one of those guys who pumps

out content and no one would actually blame you. But at the same time, it does mean a lot when someone does want to do something. And I appreciate you for organizing this.

ANDREW:

Well, sure. Thank you guys for being here. Like I said, I really respect both of your wisdom and perspective on this, and hopefully we can, you know, give something to the audience. That's uh, not just complete doom and gloom. Although, you know, anything that will move you and, like, change your heart and change your mind is going to be positive, I think so... buckle up. But, yeah, my first question. What do you call this movement and what's kind of the destination of it?

GODSWILL:

I've been calling the Black Lives Matter Movement, really. Hoping that we can focus, like on black issues and topics. Mainly, like the arms of racism. Racism isn't just like, "Hey, I don't like you, black guy," you know, it is really like this system that has kept black people down for so long. No jobs in your places of where you live, right? Bad housing. Uh, food deserts where you live, you know, And then on top of that bad schools and on top of that police brutality constantly. So it's hoping to go after all those prongs or at least as many prongs as we can at a time. You know, we're getting money from businesses, and all these charities are they're looking to help establish black people finally. But the main thing that we're I guess we're going for would be ending police brutality. Especially with governments that we have right now, where it's heavily conservative and you know, like one of their talking points has been constantly "Police are great! Yeah!" How can we even, like, start a movement within that environment? At least that's what my observation is. What do you say, Sam?

SAM:

No, I definitely agree with that. Cuz if you think about it, for the last several hundred years, black people have been very much behind, and that's a very kind way of putting it. And we've made steps over those several hundred years to improve the conditions of the black person in this society that we live in, but we're still not there yet. And so, one of my big talking points has always been that black lives matter is three words that mean what they mean in and out of context. And it's literally just to get everybody to the same level. So it's not "...matters more" not "...matters less" it's just "...matters" and we want to make it so that that's true. Because it's kind of not right now, and that's the unfortunate thing about it. And so it's unfortunate that we need a movement to make that happen, but we do, and we have it. So that's what I think it's about.

ANDREW:

I have a question, or a kind of follow up to that, I remember the first time I heard the phrase "black lives matter" like this was several years ago. And my response was to like "yes and" it. Like "yes, and so do all minorities and the white people matter too... all lives matter." Like naively, not realizing that that's obviously problematic.

Inherently, by trying to say “yes, that’s true, but let’s talk about this other thing,” you’re like putting the first thing down. Once we have achieved as many of our goals as possible (those different prongs you were talking about, Godswill) then we can worry about additional issues. But I feel like almost immediately on social media, since George Floyd was killed, other movements and other minority groups are kind of jumping in and saying “black lives matter and our little subculture matters too.” And not saying that they don’t, but I just feel like so many of these social media posts that were almost like cashing in on or trying to “ride the wave” of Black Lives Matter, or say “we matter too”.

And I’m not trying to say any of these smaller groups don’t matter because they’re small, cuz that’s kinda how we got here in the first place (by not thinking about the “little guy” so to speak, or the smaller minority) but that’s just something that’s bothered me whenever anyone tries to tinker with it or modify it in any way, it’s kind of seemed problematic to me. But then again, I don’t have much of a perspective on it. I’ve just been irked by that and trying to figure out why that bothers me so much. But what are you guys’ thoughts on it, like additional movements trying to jump on with Black Lives Matter?

GODSWILL:

I personally would say, I agree like where it irks me, too. Where like if someone tries to qualify it, you know, just sort of is like, “Yeah, but it’s not as important as the ‘and’ part” it’s more like a “...But like, this second thing is really more important.”

And then, like to the second point of, like, other movements, trying to like join in on it. We’ve seen it before too for example, with the feminist movement where, you know, like it might have had black points, but then the black points were sort of used to get more traction for their own movement and only for their own movement.

You know, um, I think everyone’s afraid of like, “Uh oh, if no one’s paying attention to my movement right now, then they’ll never pay attention to it again.” And especially for black people, we’re very afraid of that because we’ve actually seen it. Whereas other movements have gotten some traction and we haven’t, we’re still operating from the nineties right now. You know, we’re still operating from 2014 protests that were going on, you know, like, unfortunately, I’m reading articles on Time or the Atlantic that are from 2015 addressing the past thing that could be very much used today. Like Sam said it best, I think, like where it was “we matter just as much as you guys, right?” You know, unfortunately, we haven’t been shown that we even matter, you know, like is we have a state sanctioned law that sort of like allows us to be put down, you know, and talked down to and so many more things is all codified unfortunately.

SAM:

I think the sensitivity comes from the fact that it’s very clear that it’s systemic and it’s been happening for such a long time. To say something like, “all lives matter”, to somebody who’s saying “Black Lives Matter” is to ignore the struggles and the plights and everything that took us to get to where we are now. It hurts, especially because, like, people will use it maliciously.

They will, and they do, and they know what they're doing. But it does hurt when you see people that you know and are supposed to love you and understand you say it is well and maybe they don't quite know what they're saying. I'm bi racial and so I've had have different conversations with the other side of my family that maybe doesn't quite understand as much and like, that's kind of what I think it is.

It's just ignoring the difficulty and the fact that we need to fix it. That's the thing about it is that if we fix the system for black people, we fix the system for everyone. You know what I mean? So that's why I think It's very important.

I do want to bring up too that, like currently in June is Pride Month, and there is a couple of their like subsets to like I've seen Black Trans Lives Matter, as attachment to it and things like that. I think those things are important because a lot of people forget those things too. But I think there's a lot of wide extensions that really don't do any service to what's going on, and it's important to note where those are coming from.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, I guess, like how sincere, like also like the other people are trying to be. Are you saying it as an attachment or are they saying it to shout down? And if they're an attachment, are they doing it in a way that works with the established, um movements or are they doing it like and way to take advantage of it in a way I guess?

SAM:

It's all about context in the end.

ANDREW:

The ones that really irked me just kind of felt like this person already was posting Monday, Wednesday, Friday and then, like, you know, things started exploding and they just kept with the regular schedule like, "Oh, let me give my little commentary on this. Let me just solve this problem for you guys. It's Wednesday, so I was gonna post anyway."

It just seemed so tasteless and, like tone deaf like, "Do you know what is happening and like, how big this is?" And I think a lot of that comes from a place of ignorance or selfishness, maybe.

And if you're not really paying attention to it and you're just seeing some hashtags start to show up, it's like, maybe it doesn't feel that big or it doesn't like, get into your heart or whatever.

If you came from a place where you kind of grew up with, let's say you have black friends or like you thought racism was kind of over growing up and you're like, "Well, this will probably just calm down and then, you know, everything will be fine and happy by like Christmas time everything will be good. I can just, like, keep going about my regular day."

And like, that's not the way things change. Like we can't just accept the status quo. I'm just I'm so excited that it's still happening and it's got some sustained change and that it is kind of escalating to a level that hasn't happened, at least in my lifetime, that I've been aware of. Like I think this is a real moment for change, which is super exciting. It's also extremely difficult, and we're all exhausted I'm sure.

SAM:

The other thing about it too is you have to push past your... quite frankly human desire to enjoy things the way that they are. Because I think everybody--everybody in some way, shape or aspect is very much wired to not enjoy change. Like I don't like change. Change bothers me a lot sometimes, but, um, I think that's a lot of the other reason too. And look, if you see you see those creators and those content producers that that react the way that they do and they post the way that they do and irks you and irks me, too. It's that thing at the back of your brain that's like "This is too much for me to handle right now." And I think it's important for everybody to push past that because we need that to happen.

And it's very easy to tell when a creator or somebody is posting, and it's genuine versus when it is what you pointed out, Andrew. Where it's very easy to tell and to look at the other people who are posting in that like, kind of bothersome way. It's just about pushing past that barrier in their head, and they need people to talk to them and help them get past that point, it's clear they're posting, and somewhere in them they support what's happening. It's just that they need that extra push to really, like, break out and be for it, you know, and to be a part of it.

GODSWILL:

I mean, that's definitely the nice way of also saying what you just said. I would go with more the tone that it is also, like, selfish too. Like a lot of people do need that extra push. Maybe they don't really understand what's happening. Uh, and they haven't had, like, the outlets to even ask those questions. Maybe.

But, you know, but I would say, unfortunately, like the problem with celebrities, you know, giving us this lip service or even just doing like their square for one day and then going back to normal. Is that like, that's not what we need. You know, we're not even like... money for sure is important. But like that's not even a thing is more like a true, genuine amplification. Like, "Are you really for this or you just, you know, trying to make it about you again," right? Are you really for this, or are you trying to save face for your sponsors? You know, who probably already even joined on Black Lives Matter? Are you really for this or are you just sort of saying like, "hey everybody, let's just get along," you know, sounding tone deaf. You know, not adding anything to the conversation extra.

SAM:

That reminds me of that video. I don't know if you guys saw it, but it was that video of, like, all of those white celebrities: I Take Responsibility. My response was like "Cool. What do you doing about it? I'm glad you're saying it, but..."

GODSWILL:

"I won't let anyone say racist things around me again." It's like "Oh, boy. Thanks, man. You saved us."

SAM

Racism is solved, everybody.

GODSWILL:

I won't be like, super like mean to them. Like because I know the internet ripped them up. They already got their lickings. And for me, at least, like the sentiment was nice. I at least am appreciating more nice sentiment nowadays, but at the same time is like yeah, well, now that the level of these protests have gotten so far, it's like, Let's not ask for the normal, you know, like or like the minimum lip service anymore.

Let's really go for it. You know, we're seeing that actually going for it works. So don't act like before, you know?

SAM:

Imagine if every one of those people took just even a little bit more effort. Like imagine how much further it could be pushed. If you just take like a little step forward. And then each step forward gets easier and easier as you do it, because everybody else is around is doing it as well. And it's just it's one of those things in your brain where it doesn't take a lot to get started. It's just it's kind of like the idea of pushing a boulder. Like it's hard to push a boulder. But if you push the if you if you push a boulder down a hill like yeah, but once it's going down, it's just going to keep going.

GODSWILL:

It's all momentum, man. The movement already has, like quite the momentum. Like we've never seen this before. You know, like where we've gotten multi-million and billion dollar corporations even pledge money. You know, not even just to say something, but to pledge money, right? Multiple countries around the world are having their own movements. You know, all 50 states are doing their thing. The movements are still going on. We're getting it such attention that we've never gotten before. Such momentum. That's even getting legislation done. It's sorta like there's not so much to be afraid of anymore because a lot of people are with it, you know? Like the Internet, I think it has been like such a helper like as never before. So maybe that's what's different about this protest.

[Music: Wake Up Everybody—Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes]

SAM:

The other thing too is, I think Gen Z also is stepping up in like a very important way, which I think a lot of it is just like... A lot of past attitudes has always been like, "What world are we

leaving behind for our children, you know, and like the future generations,” and I think it's important to look at that, too. But at the same time, I think a lot of the reason why it's stalled in the past is because the generations that are about to inherit the Earth don't step up as hard as they should.

And this next generation, this upcoming generation is actually taking the ball and stepping up and doing things. Like I know a 14 year old who organized protests and done stuff, like it's crazy to see like and it's giving everybody else energy, which is it's awesome to see. It's really cool.

GODSWILL:

Maybe it is because of the Internet, like where they get to see each other doing it. I mean, Tik Tok has been massive in this right? And it's so easy to see, you know, just accidental Tik Tok of Black Lives Matter, right? And that's getting spread all over Instagram and Twitter and Facebook. And also there's no distractions, you know, like everyone has energy and they're bored at home is all cooped up, you know?

Unless you're like a huge nerd like me and... anime and video games all day, right? But like I would say, like the ingredients for this movement have never been so ripe before. And one of the bigger unfortunate things is that there's a pandemic happening. But, you know, luckily, I think many people hopefully will be okay, we're going to see. But either way, like even doctors, you know have said this is such a public health issue that these protests and this movement should continue, okay? It is just that important to honestly helping large swaths of people more than staying inside, you know? So we get this issue solved, we get to move on.

SAM:

You've seen, like videos of healthcare professionals standing outside of hospitals, applauding the protesters as they're walking on the street. Like people are on board.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, worldwide on board. In multiple segments of the justice system onboard. You know, just I think the most wild thing, though, is seeing what the police are doing to protesters on video. Especially like when they know they're on video. I don't really get that part. It's wild, but hey, you know, like it's finally like most of the world is getting to see what we have been knowing for so long, you know? Even with the Rodney King beatings that happened in '92. You know, a lot of what black people were saying back then was “wow, they got it on video, you know, now people are going to see, like what we're up to.” Now with the Internet is just so apparent you can't ignore it unless you were really trying to ignore it.

ANDREW:

I was gonna say like, I wonder about Tik Tok versus, like older generations, like generations older than us (who I think we're all three of millennials.) Like I think older generations kind of get their news from one specific source that's kind of like already saying what they want to hear. Whereas maybe the younger generation is more social media and just kind of less in control of what's going to come up when they started scrolling or when that Tik Tok video ends

like what's coming up. Like it's up to, you know, the algorithms or whatever that gives it to them.

So it's a more like universal source of news and seeing what kind of goes viral. They basically are paying attention to trends a lot more instead of just whatever is on TV or whoever they're following on Twitter or whatever.

SAM:

Tik Tok is so weird. I'm too old for Tik Tok, but I tried making one. And it's that it was so hard for me to figure out what to do. I was like, "I'm done." It's such a weird thing because it's almost subliminal in a way, the way that Tik Tok is presented because it's just so quick to swipe and look at a thing. Because I'll be watching Tik Tok and I'll see like "Oh, this was very funny." And you'll swipe. And there's a dance video. And then well here's a thirst trap video. And then, oh, here's social justice. And it's just like that is very easy to consume that kind of stuff. And it's different from Vine, because Vine was very specifically chunked out in six seconds. And you can't do a whole lot with that. But with Tik Tok, you could do up to a minute, and it's all very easy to consume very quickly. And so I think that's another reason why it's been so like important in like helping to push what's going on.

GODSWILL:

Like Tik Tok is perfect. Personally, I wanted to die.

SAM:

At first? Yeah, for sure.

[Laughter]

GODSWILL:

I'm really grateful That didn't die because, you know, you guys remember way back when I was cringy. It was just, uh... But once again, like one Corona. Two, we did have Vine so that like sorta like taught many people like how to go about it. And then, like, I guess, you know, with all these content creators, who are showing people like, how to do, like, do videos even better?

And then Tik Tok makes it easy to make videos. So, um, you know, the quality is has skyrocketed, especially with CoronaVirus where people are cooped in and their creative output has to go someplace. You know, now is just so easy for anybody to be a content creator. Thanks a Tik Tok. And for it to go viral so easily, I mean, how many of you guys have seen Tik Tok stuff blow up on everything else? You know? I still use Facebook. I still use Instagram. I still use Twitter, Man. It's funny that when you said we're millennials, I was like "crap we're old."

SAM:

I joined Twitter 11 years ago. That's insane.

GODSWILL:

I know right? But I did get a 12 year anniversary with a friend on Facebook, like things past Saturday. And I was like, "wow, 12 years on Facebook." That's crazy.

SAM:

I do. I do that. There's an app called Time Hop that I do that shows you posts from, like, back in the day. I'm like getting like cringy like Facebook Post when I was in high school and I'm just like, "Why was I like this? I wish that I wasn't like this."

GODSWILL:

Yeah, you know, I would also say Gen Z is like cooler. It was like that's not something I would like to say. I don't like to say that. Like my sister's Gen Z, I think, yeah technically. She's nine years younger than me. She's just honestly cooler than me, like I'm cool in her, technically.

[Laughter]

ANDREW:

"Technically!"

GODSWILL:

Technically like I've done more things, you know, but like, because she's younger than me.

SAM:

That's hilarious, but like How do I explain to the next generation that I'm cool, but I'm just an adult?

GODSWILL:

Every time I talk to her it's just like "Hey young kids..." and I'm like "That'll work. That's how people talked to me back in my day and I liked it."

Gen Z like has been through so much already, you know, like they've been through multiple world wars. They've been through multiple economic crashes. These guys, their prom has just been robbed, you know, and all of their traditions have been robbed.

I mean, we're asking if college is useful anymore, you know? Their coolness comes from being hurt so many times, I would have to say, you know? And also the internet's not nice place, inherently. They have been conditioned, I guess. Maybe that's another factor into this. Ah, because I do agree, like Gen Z has been key in making this movement go forward still.

ANDREW:

That's amazing. That's very true. Do you think like each generation gets more self-confident than the one before? Or like they are allowed to be themselves more because there's more freedoms, you know? They can come out earlier if they're, you know, LGBTQ+. Like you can be yourself and figure out your pronouns a lot earlier because the culture is progressing? Does that--Is that real?

GODSWILL:

I say that parts real for sure. Like honestly, I got to say, like, I would think our age and like, you know, like these recent ages, have been more enlightened, honestly, like I would honestly say that. Where it's like it's no longer about just work, get married, have kids and die, you know, hopefully pass on your farm.

[Laughter]

You know like honestly like hopefully like they lived to like 30 and they we're like “Wow that was a good life. I'm so happy.” Now you know we're getting started at 30 and not even like, get started on how to get a farm and how to get kids. It's now like, how can we impact the world? And I would say like before, we we're lucky to have libraries and dial up. Now they get gigabit internet and multiple libraries and just constant information.

SAM:

And it's all in this little square. Well, like I remember reading from those like the technology, and this is like more advanced than the technology that took us to the moon in the first place.

GODSWILL:

And yet it crashes when I opened more than six apps.

ANDREW:

You have to buy a new one. That's why, they planned that.

[Laughter]

[Music: A Change is Gonna Come—Sam Cooke]

GODSWILL:

I think these new generations are more privileged and have more of an ability to go further than before. Especially now that we're even more enlightened, we're questioning “where do we get our information from and what makes it credible?” And that's another level of like intelligence building, I guess, right? Like, how do we know that the information that we are perceiving is credible?

ANDREW:

That seems like a skill the generation above us does not have it all haha.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, like my favorite TV show said this. And then they text us how many memes you know with, like the apocalypse conspiracy theory memes? Really, Mom, I love you, but you've got to stop that.

SAM:

And I think a lot of like the generation above us is, I think, trying. But I think it's very much like it's like it's gotten better as it goes down. Because I think about like, "wokeness" right? And I think about like where I'm at and where the next generation is at and then I think, "Well, one day if I do have kids, like I know how I am and how I will react to like what they want to do and who they are." So imagine what they're going to do with their kids and so on and so forth and like how it's gonna progress in the future.

ANDREW:

Right, and I would say like on behalf of the kids, I used to teach high school, and I know those kids. A lot of them were going through some pretty rough stuff about kind of questioning "Who am I? What's the meaning of life?" like all the stuff that I feel like previous generations like by the time they started thinking about that stuff, they already had kids. And they're like "Ehh, I'll just deal with that when I'm dead, like I don't have time for that."

Like kids, I feel like kids these days they're going through that. Like having some, like, serious, you know, mental health crises and like anxiety because they're figuring out these, like, things humans have always pondered and philosophized about. Uh, and they're figuring it out like by the time they, like, you know, leave high school, which is amazing. And, like they've been through it and they've kind of molted and, like, started to become butterflies already.

GODSWILL:

Be better adjusted people, right?

ANDREW:

Yeah, and I know that's really hard. I'm not trying to, like, say, "it's easy to be them," but it's pretty great what the outcome is.

SAM:

We just decided at some point that now we have the time, you know, and I think that's that was the critical difference.

GODSWILL:

That's a good point. Also, I would say like I would think, like it's because we started talking to each other a lot more. That we're just sorta like, "How do you feel" and then we're like, "wait, we're not supposed to feel like that?" And then I guess we just sort of gave it words, you know, like we actually like started naming these things, and we're like, "Oh, that hurts somebody. Let's stop doing that because it hurts that guy."

And I think it's like sort of globalization, like globalization has just skyrocketed. I mean, I'm talking with you guys, we're so connected. Like where it feels across were in the same room, you know. And like I'm were all from different cultures to like we're able to like understand each other a little bit better, too.

SAM:

It's so much easier to look into the lives of other people--be sympathetic to other people now that there's literally no excuse not to. At this point, there's no excuse not to. If you look at, like racism and all those bad things that happen, it's all learned behavior. You can unlearn that behavior. I'm friends with people, who grew up in less-than-savory communities and families, who used to be a particular way and unlearned that behavior and became better. And I've been seeing all these posts on Facebook and on social media about like people who, like when they were 18 they got, like, the Confederate flag tattooed on their shoulders. And then they're getting it covered up because they have found themselves, and they learned, and they improved, and they educated themselves and they got better. There's literally no excuse for anybody. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. There's no excuse for not being better. Everybody can learn behavior. It's about, like, not accepting "that's just how they grew up." Or "they were just born learning that stuff" like there's no reason to set that as an excuse anymore.

ANDREW:

Absolutely. You can teach yourself anything you know, with social media and with being able to connect with people like all over the world, kind of like you said Godwill.

If you had been born the way you are now, like 100 years ago, you might not have any friends who are into the same stuff as you. There's no podcasts about it or anything like that, like you might just feel like you're a total weirdo because you like to wear, you know, pantyhose or whatever. But then, like now, there's like huge communities and tons of people who will support you in that and you can be, you know, strong and be yourself and like, I don't know.

You just have access to so many more people and you're not just gonna be a copy of your parents or like people in your local community. I think it's globalization, really. And social media. It's a crazy, huge impact.

GODSWILL:

I'm happy that I don't have to be like my parents. Don't get me wrong, I love my parents, but you know, the same time I'm hoping I can be better than them. And then I'm literally hoping that my kids, when I eventually get them (if I get them, you know, knock on wood) will, you know, be better than me. And I think this is like, sort of the first time that, like we sort of understand, "what does it mean to be better than us" too.

I would say finally, like we're starting to, like also be like less material, like as generations. Like where you know, that was the goal. That house and the picket fence and, you know, like, sort of security. The secure job that paid really well, that doesn't mean as much to us like younger people as, you know, it did to older generations.

So I also like our values have changed a lot. Um, we definitely have changed our mind on, like, what's important to us and we're sort of saying that like what's important to us is this connection and enjoying life and hopefully enjoying life together. At least that's my perspective.

SAM:

I always say like I can only ever speak for myself. But because of how connected we are, it's very easy to look at social media, look at the world, and look at people and see like "Okay, this is a very popular thought and this is what a lot of people think and feel comfortable in expressing that thing." And Godswill said about hoping that your kids are better than you, I think that's really critical, because, like, even if you look at yourself and you feel like "I'm good and I'm you know, I'm punching, I'm moving, I'm going." You can always do something more. You can always learn something else and always improve yourself. And I think we should all be striving towards doing that no matter who we are. Like you can always learn something new and you can always improve yourself would be better about just about anything.

ANDREW:

Yeah, it's also cool to see how we're shaping the world and the workforce and so many things by just not being willing to accept... like, "hey, this is what other people are doing that I don't agree with, but you know, it's a job or like I have to live in this town. So I have to work at the factory or the, you know, slaughterhouse or whatever."

It's like you can you can do the thing you want to do, and I don't know, you don't have to just accept things the way that they currently are. Which I think is maybe why this Black Lives Matter movement is taking off so well. I do think there was, like, some built up tension from COVID maybe that helped to kind of fuel the fire and people were ready to get out there and get active and do something. Or donate, where they're like, you know, "I have been saving up money I've been waiting for, like, aa sign or whatever and like this is a pretty clear moment for that."

And, you know, the Tik Tok kids are doing amazing stuff with, you know, getting tickets to the Tulsa Rally and all that stuff. It's so cool that they're just not willing to just deal with it and just, like, go about the regular life or the tradition of what other people think they should do. And they're like, "No, I'm going to do this my way. What I think is right," and the world is starting to become that image. It's starting to become that better vision of what's possible instead of just the way it was destined to be or whatever. It's beautiful.

GODSWILL:

Absolutely. Yeah. Now I'm feeling like, really hopeful. I'm like "Yeah, we can do this! Yeah!"

SAM:

Let's go! I actually had a couple of friends ask me right around the time it was starting (these are white friends, I should say) "should I feel bad for like, not going to protests?" Like as an example. And the way that I explained it to them, I was like, "No, I don't think you should, because protests about racial inequality very specifically have a way of escalating as you have seen in the news. And so there's a lot of like there's a lot of risk that can be associated with going out and protesting and marching for Black Lives Matter."

And the way that I explained it was that you have to calculate within yourself how much risk you are willing to put on to yourself as far as physical risk. Because one you never know if something like that's gonna break out. Two we are still in the middle of a global pandemic. It's very unique time for that, so you have to kind of gauge that within yourself. But if you decide that you are not going to go, you also have to you have a responsibility to use your platform to speak up and donate and, like, talk about it and say the things. And really just be very vocal about moving the needle on it. That's the other thing, too, is that there are so many different ways to help and to push it forward. There's always gonna be people that are going to go protest like that's just kind of how it is. But, you know, there's other things that you can be doing in lieu of that.

GODSWILL:

Absolutely just as you said, you know, with the Tulsa, you know, the K pop fans, right? They're very actionable, and there's multiple ways to take action. Like this is honestly a war. There's all different types of soldiers--not everyone's out there in the field, you know. And, you know, even if the pandemic wasn't happening, you know, which is very excusable thing, cause I mean, we have been houses for three months, but you know, if you were brave enough to go out there, awesome.

But if you can't, there's so many more ways to participate and to help, you know, just says Sam said, you know, like using your platform. Maybe you're not a person who talks a lot, you know? Maybe, you only talk to individuals, have that conversation--the hard conversation with individuals, you know? Donate money, really support black businesses. You know, really, understand the history. Like the history is key, you know. Now I'm happy to everyone now is understanding the history about Juneteenth and Tulsa Massacres. You know, they're seeing, what has been happening to black people for so long. And that's crucial, you know, to understand. Then you'll feel angry just like us. You'll want to do something. And you'll figure out a way. Like there's many creative ways to be able to help out, you know?

We definitely appreciate all these, you know, like seeing so many voices side with us. Honestly, it has been the thing that has been keeping me sane. Like Andrew, I appreciate you. You know, your questions have been great and honestly, your heart is there--is with us, you know. This guy is really with us.

We can all see, like, when somebody's with it. And when somebody is just trying to do it just to save face.

SAM:

It's very easy to tell.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, it's easy. But this is truly genuine. I truly appreciate, you know, even just his conversation. Like, it feels pretty cathartic to sort of talk about this. It feels cathartic to hear people are with it. We definitely have work to do, but we're on the right path.

[Music: Freedom--Beyoncé]

ANDREW:

On Tik Tok or Instagram, or whatever, you just scroll through. You don't know what's gonna come up, so you'll see a couple of things that are like empowering, uplifting, educational about the movement. And then, like, there will be some huge bummer that just, like, sneaks in there and it just messes up your day, or at least your hour. And that really sucks. Uh, not to say we should look away. Or that because it is, I would say, a sign of weakness to say, like, "Oh, man, can't wait till this is over. I want to get back to my normal life or whatever."

Like being strong and like trying to focus on the long term is really how we can really turn the tides. Like now that things are starting to shift, I feel like there's, uh, an instinct to be like "Whew! We made it through, you know, downtown is all plywooded up. We're safe, everything's fine."

Like now is the time to keep pushing and, like, not give up hope and not also not become a total nervous wreck. Which, yeah, this last month has been like one of the hardest months in my life. Even though there's always empowering things going on, you know, it's just like I've never had this much like anxiety before. Because it's just such a weird feeling. There's so many things going on and, like I want to be active on to make a difference. But I don't feel like I should be speaking right now. Like man, it's wild.

GODSWILL:

I don't blame you, like with the anxiety. Like I would say a mental health is absolutely crucial for everybody. Like I would say, it's been traumatic for sure, for black people. But at same time I would say it is traumatic for allies and everyone has been with it.

Like where, you know, maybe this the first time someone has seen such a thing. I could imagine that's really scarring, you know? Maybe this isn't the first time someone has seen such a thing, but the same time it was still such a gruesome thing to see, you know, and we're still in a pandemic. And we're not handling the pandemic well, you know? It's just been just been like onslaught, onslaught you know? Like you can name a handful of good things have happened this month, but, you know, at least on like the national or worldwide scale. But I don't blame anyone that feels bad.

SAM:

I've noticed my feeds are kind of like they're not going back to normal, per se. But they are starting to... like the normal stuff is starting to come back in. And I think that's totally okay, because everybody needs a break.

So I think if you burn out, if you like, get exhausted with it, you're not gonna wanna do anything with it anymore. And that's more dangerous than anything is that we lose people because

they're so exhausted and they're so burnt out by what they're seeing that they just decide they want to look away again. And I think it's perfectly valid and acceptable to be like "I need to take a break from social media. I need allow myself to have fun. I need to give myself good things now." And that's crucial. I've done it, like I took a couple days off of all social media. I literally deleted my apps. I didn't want to look at it, and then I didn't want the temptation of looking at it. And then when I was ready, I downloaded them again and then came right back to it. And that is an incredibly valuable thing to do for yourself. And it's an incredibly valuable thing, and important thing to recognize when that is starting to happen so that you can take steps to prevent it and be nice to yourself. But you need to be nice to yourself. Otherwise you're just gonna lose it.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, absolutely crucial. Like, yeah, I mean, the burnout is real. Everyone had already been feeling stressed and, you know, anxious already beforehand. So I don't really blame that, but yeah, I mean, definitely we do need to keep at it.

That's the other part. Like where it's like, "Yes, let's have fun. Let's don't, you know, give yourself some breaks. Definitely turn off the social media. Don't drink the news all this whole time."

Yeah, that's I think the thing that unfortunately like we all did, and we're all just sort of scanning, especially like once this protest started. Um, you know, we kept drinking from the fire hose that was the news. And we kept drinking. You know, seeing all the police brutality... it's important to see the brutality, but the same time, don't chug the hose of it because it's like...

SAM:

You're gonna drown.

GODSWILL:

Now we know that there's danger out there. You don't need to make yourself depressed by just watching it every day. And, you know, getting in that trench every day like that.

ANDREW:

Initially I had thought of like "Let's just kind of sprint through this and get to a point where, like, there's enough of a vote enough of a change to where things take themselves from there."

But then it's like, "No, it's more like a marathon. So it's okay to, like, not be pushing 100% and like putting everything you have into, like every day, trying to make the biggest change you can. Think about like the long term goal and, like, where is the finish line for you? You can stop and take a nap and take a vacation or whatever you gotta do, watch a movie to get your mind off and get your mind right."

But I don't even think it's a marathon, either. I think it's just like a lifestyle, like a new habit. We just need to add this to be part of the routine. You know, it's not like just a little fad diet thing

that's gonna be like 30 days or 90 days. It's like, "Why don't we just start paying attention to everyone who is under represented, who is having a moment to create positive change for, you know, the future?" Just always be looking out for that. Like, I don't think it should change once this hashtag stops being at the top of Twitter or whatever. I feel like it should just be a learned behavior, hopefully, going forward forever.

So, yes, give yourself some time like don't burn out. That would be like the worst thing that could happen. Really, like any action is good. But if it's sustained, if you're doing it for 10 minutes a day for the rest of your life, that's way better than doing it for eight hours right now and then being done forever.

GODSWILL:

Facts, facts, facts! You said it, I think, the best way, like where, you know... like one, it is a marathon, but then two it's also not even a marathon, it's a lifestyle. And for this movement that going on it's definitely a marathon. Like, even if we're talking about political action, it's gonna take a while for that political action to happen.

SAM:

I always want to impress this upon people because... I won't dive too deep into like the politics of it all, I know I know who I am voting for in November, but you know, that's between you and you.

But it's important because if you look at it, like we don't have great options November for president. But it's so much more than that. Like a lot of people think that you have to attack it from the top down when really like you can start attacking it from the roots. Local. Bottoms up. A third of all Senate seats are up every two years, including this election in November. And the senators are almost more important than the president in most things. Senators, local government, bylaws and stuff that are being enacted in your community.

GODSWILL:

Like judges, D. A's...

SAM:

Yes. All that stuff. Those are the things, like from that local level, and up, that are going to help effect change at the top where you're focused on. And so many people are focused on "Biden Trump Biden Trump." Vote where your heart tells you to vote, but like there's so much more underneath it that needs to change before...

We have a certifiably broken election process for president. It's just, like, it's just the truth. And we have a lot of really broken systems in our country that can't be fixed until we go roots up. Because that's where it has to start, and that's currently important. So I always impress on people that even if you're not super enthused about the idea of voting for president, that's not all that's there.

GODSWILL:

It's not the main focus, shouldn't be the main focus, really. Yeah, there's so much more. And yeah, I mean, I whole heartedly agree. Like where, politically, that's where, like, the power is gonna come from long term, you know. That's what's going to get the legislation. I mean, we still talk about, you know, the Acts of 1964 in 1968 right? And we talk about the amendments. You know, and that could only happen from governments that even feel like they would wanna to listen to us. You know, right now, we have a government that really it isn't gonna to try to listen to us. Because they're trying to talk to their base, who, you know, want things go back to what it was. You know, I'm like, "yeah, I mean, how we have to think, like a long term."

And, yeah, like with the running analogy like that, run with us, you know? Unfortunately, we've been running this our old lives, but, at the same time we're so happy that we have people that are willing to to run with us or walk with us, you know? But at least like are you going the same way that we're going, or are you trying to go back to what used to be, right? Are you trying to stop us from even running?

SAM:

One of the videos that I did on my channel was specifically designed to help this, like, one specific friend who I was having conversations with them. And they wanted to go to the protests, but I wasn't convinced that there their heart was in the right place and that their reasoning for doing that was correct.

And so I wanted to open a dialogue with that person. And be like, "Hey, here's what you need to think about and you have to be in it for the right reasons. And you're welcome to come with us. But you are not welcome to slow us down."

It's very mportant to note that like, yeah, run with us. Run alongside us. But like, if you're gonna hang back, we're going to keep on going without you. Like that's super important to know.

ANDREW:

And speaking as an uneducated white person, I think it can be kind of like intimidating in a way. I kind of thought that racism was dead, like I didn't realize it was as big of a deal. Like I'm from a small rural town that's 99 point something percent white and my like one black friend growing up was totally cool. And like, didn't they didn't act like they were being oppressed. They didn't complain. They just knew that was part of life.

You know, they're not like crying in the hallway every day, which is like something a white person does when they're discriminated against like once.

Um, and so growing up, I was like, "Oh, racism is seriously dead because I know one person of color and there cool and they're fine and like, they joke about race and stuff and they're like, obviously okay." But that's just ignorance, really. It's just like saying, "Oh, I've got one example of this thing and they're not outwardly expressing that, you know, they're being discriminated against," but that doesn't mean it's not happening.

So just for, you know, audience members, whoever can hear this, that like, uh, feels intimidated being like “I thought we were good. And now I'm really shaken up about like, obviously we're not good like this is to a new level further than it's ever been in my life.” Uh, don't be an idiot, but you can definitely find resource and find people on YouTube who are talking about like, “hey, white people, here's what I would recommend.”

Sam's got several great videos, which are like, pretty transparent about like, “Hey, this is a good place for you to kind of start and figure out what one person's opinion is on this, at least,” And that's way more empowering than no people's opinions or just rolling it over your head a bunch until just like burn out or give up or just like breakdown, because you're like, “I don't know what what I can do.”

Just because you're currently in a place where you feel ignorant about it doesn't mean you're gonna be like that forever. Like we were talking earlier with, like, the Tik Tok kids, you can learn anything you want to, like, just google it, do some research and then talk to your friends. And I don't mean go to the one black person at work and, like tug on their sleeve and say, like, “Hey, teach me about Black Lives Matter,” because that is not their job. That's super irresponsible of you to assume, but there are resource is online that can get you to a place of not being an idiot anymore. And then maybe you can start to make some kind of positive change. That'll hopefully fulfill that need, because hopefully the audience (if you are kind of feeling ignorant about this) feels the need to do something about it instead of just bury your head in the sand.

Whew, so guys? What kind of actions could someone take if they are kind of feeling dumb about this and they're a white person or, um, they just feel like they don't know what to do right now. Like, are there some baby steps they can start with?

SAM:

Yeah, absolutely. Like you said, it's easy to just go on Google and learn stuff. Like just by being on the internet just by osmoses right now, you're probably seeing so many different terms pop up. You're probably seeing the Tulsa Race Riots pop up, you're probably seeing the LA Riots, Rodney King and all the other stuff pop up.

Literally take these keywords that you're noticing, like your black friends and people of color that are posting on Internet, and just Google them. There are so many different sources, like go to like the History Channel website and they have very simple breakdowns of like what these things were. And then from there you could, like, pick pieces and learn more and branch out and just teach yourself.

And so it's very easy to just Google things that you're seeing that you have questions about and say, “Okay, I should learn more about this because it seems like people find this important. Let me figure out what this is all about.”

And obviously Juneteenth was an important thing. So learn about what exactly is happening there. There's so easy to just Google something. And I would say do that. And I think the important thing to is to be patient with yourself. Because again, we've been running this race for a long time. If you're just kind of now joining it, it's kind of like if you're in a college class and professors teaching and you show up on you show up like mid semester for the first time, right? There's gonna be a lot of work that you need to do to catch up, and you can't really expect other people around you to help you do that catching up. So you have to be patient with yourself when you're trying to learn this stuff. I think that's the most important part.

And the other thing that you need to remember that's really important is that black people have been dealing with this for such a long time. And to a lot of those people, you just being there is going to be kind of an annoyance to them. And that's kind of just how it how it shakes out, because it's been so many years of the oppression and the setbacks and all this stuff like that.

So you need to keep an open mind and remember that detail and not get fed up and frustrated at it, either. Because you need to like, because that's the whole point is you're catching up and you're trying to better yourself so that you understand where those people are coming from. That's the whole point, right? So you have to be patient with yourself and you have to you have to keep from getting frustrated. You have to remember that stuff.

GODSWILL:

Man, that's really well said. Like I like dancing right. And people always ask me, "Hey, teach me how to dance" right? But you know, there's so much more that, like I still need to learn before even dancing. And it's sorta annoying for the person who wants me to teach him how to dance, but they don't even know what a beat is, right? Then they quit. They quit when it gets too hard, right? And just we're like, well, then you just unfortunately wasted my time.

And I think that's sort of analogy that sort of came to me like with this. But you know, I think like honestly, like we are down to teach, is just more like, "What's your genuine willingness to, like try to understand what's happening?" And get started and then bring up questions. You know, not just more like "Hey, teach me what Malcolm X is," right? It's more like come with a question of like, "Okay, you know, why did Malcolm X say this right? Or why did Martin Luther King do this?"

You know, um, and like, educated questions from the right sources. Unfortunately, like we've seen schoolbooks didn't teach, you know, slavery correctly, apparently. You know, like they're like, "Oh, they're just, you know, they wanted to work there." We've seen that, unfortunately from some sources, right? It's sort of like, understand, like where your sources come from, do they accurately talk about, like, our struggles correctly? Because maybe your understanding is from a skewed place, right?

And don't get me wrong. Both places gonna be skewed, but there is a correct skewed place. Our skewed bias, you know, like what has happened to us, right? It's sort of like pay attention,

like, where are you getting your stories from? Whether you're getting it from educated people who know our history? If you want to read about Malcolm X read the Autobiography of Malcolm X, you know? And then read people like, who are going to give it a fair shake so you can really understand what's happening. And then they can, like, go to your black friends better and this shows that you are being genuine and sincere and actually trying to understand, uh, the struggle.

I guess, like for people who want to even know where to go, I would also say, like, um, like, go to NPR. NPR, like, has been like a source that has been really good to us and has a lot of black speakers. There's even a podcast called Code Switch, you know, like which might be able to get you started well. You know, I listen--I'm from Texas and one of my favorite podcast from NPR is called Think. And they've had many good 40 minute talks about topics, all different types of topics, but like they bring in very good speakers, who I would actually say would be great first starting places to go listen to. There's Ibram X. Kendi right? He's a great speaker, Ta-Nehisi Coates, very educated people who have done a lot of research on this topic, and I would say those would be good starting places to go learn.

ANDREW:

That's awesome, thank you.

SAM:

That's like, that's the other critical thing, too. When you think about like "please, my black friends, teach me about this stuff," is that we're still teaching ourselves at the end of the day as well. Because, like in my early twenties, like, I didn't want to know anything for anything. I was like, "Who needs this?" And like now I can't get enough of it. We're also still learning, and we're also still improving ourselves as well. And so you know, there's always something to learn, and if we can do, you can do it. You know?

GODSWILL:

That's absolutely crucial to know, like, where it's like, we're still learning this stuff to, you know, like we're not experts. I didn't get my education in this, and also I don't even really even blame people like if they hadn't known things. Because, like I said earlier, we've all sort of gotten this sort of skewed learning like where we might not have even learned it. We just learned about what the Tulsa Massacres were, really. I mean, I knew about Juneteenth. I knew about it Tulsa Massacre. But that became that came from my deep learning. I don't blame most people who didn't know about either these issues (and also from Juneteenth on from Texas), so, you know, it was more of a state thing anyways) but it's important for the whole nation to understand that. Just as you said, Andrew, like the sort of the anecdote, you know, like, "oh, my black friend was doing all right." You know, even personally, like, I I'm lucky. Like I haven't had, like, very outlandish examples of racism, you know, like, definitely like a lot of felt stuff, a lot of covert type of stuff. You know, this honestly, unfortunately, hard to prove as like "Oh, because you're black. This is what happened." But, you know, you've sort of feel it. Like, unfortunately, I would say, like many people don't have, like, a lot of examples to sort of go on. You know, like, I

don't blame people for wanting to trust, one friend or one person that they see, but you might I even know, like, what's going on their lives, you know?

You know, you might hear about the examples of racism, and it might be baffling for you, so it is important to do this education so we can come a little more knowledgeable about, like what these micro aggressions are. Or what more systemic problems are. I feel like every black person is like trying to have to explain, you know, defend yourself of why this is racism, and why you feel hurt, and why, you know, when I even like getting for it is more trying to assert that "No, these have been infringements on my human rights. I'm trying to explain to you again why it is an infringement of human rights and why I got that and you didn't." You know it sorta sucks. I always had to keep going past that.

SAM:

It's important to know, too, that, like, because of the way that black people have been beaten down in this country so much in the past, you may look at your friend and not see a problem. But, Godswill brought it up earlier too, where it's just that they might just not be saying it. Because in the past, like, and I can say this for myself, like I have experienced this feeling as well. The idea of being afraid to speak up, for fear of consequence, because it's like it's as low is just being, pushed back and as high as like, violence against yourself. You know, if you say something and speak out against something that's bothering you in that way, and so if you're from like one of those communities where like, Andrew, you said 99 point something percent white and you have, like that one black kid in school... Like I'd be afraid to say something, you know, like I like because you're surrounded by this very predominantly, you know, white quite community like, especially in those situations.

But like in the past, I've had very like anxious moments about saying something about things that made me uncomfortable. And so it's important to note that, like just because you don't see it doesn't mean it's not happening in their heart, you know?

GODSWILL:

Yeah, absolutely. And I mean exactly that. Like where, you know, if you say something to the wrong person, it can be violent, you know? It can be push back. It can be getting your job lost, or somewhat discrimination.

You have to be careful. You know, like, black people, we've been unfortunately conditioned from young ages to be aware of these things, you know? Like how to behave in front of white parents or how to behave in front of cops. We've gotten a second school. Yeah, we've had multiple talks and unfortunate schoolings that I would think that, like other cultures, might not be aware of, you know? Because it's just "you want to prevent these things, don't you don't want, you know the worst to happen."

So our parents have tried to condition us, you know, for our protection.

SAM:

And the sad thing about it is that even that conditioning sometimes just doesn't matter. Obviously, cause you've seen, like they're there are like children and people who are sleeping getting murdered in the same way. If you look at it too, like again like that social anxiety goes from the lowest to like the top. Because if you look at some of the... Trayvon Martin was not killed by police. He was killed by George Zimmerman, who was a citizen. Ahmaud Arbery was jogging and he was killed by citizens. That example that did not end in death, thankfully, was Amy Cooper in New York with the dog where she called the police on the birdwatcher that he was just watching birds and wanted her to follow the law. Like it's just like that constant social struggle where these bad things are happening. And sometimes that conditioning doesn't work.

And the other thing that I also want to impress on people, too, is that it doesn't like... racism doesn't just exist in the right wing. Like for the example of like after the whole thing with Amy Cooper happened, a lot of investigation was done, and you found out that she is a registered Democrat. She voted for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and all these people. It doesn't just like it doesn't just exist within like "the other side." You have to be careful everywhere, and it's unfortunate that you do, but like it's just you have to constantly have your head on a swivel. It's insane!

GODSWILL:

You know, like one bad example, unfortunately like, or that makes me sad, is like thinking about the black cosplayer who got killed, you know, like at a con. You know, this is sort of like, wow, like he got killed, you know, for being what he is. You know, this is a fear that, like, I feel like a lot of us have felt. I definitely have felt it like where it's, like, "stand out too much, call attention to yourself. You know something bad can happen." I mean, just the Amy Cooper example is perfect. You know, we've seen examples of different FedEx employees, you know, delivery men, getting police called on them for delivering to their neighborhoods, you know, just is wild.

SAM:

Like a personal example too is that next Monday, I'm going to be house sitting for a friend, and I had to have a conversation with her. That's like, "Hey, did you let your neighbors know that I'm going to be coming and watching your house so I don't get shot, you know?" Like it's insane that we have to have these conversations with people, but it's just it's kind of--that's what that's what the movement is trying to fix, right? It's trying to fix the fact that we have to have those conversations and we have to worry about just existing as who we are.

GODSWILL:

Existing, you know, just to be legally killed. You know, like that's the saddest thing about it all. Like where whatever we do could get us killed legally and, you know, our names disparaged. In fact I've even wonder is like, "I wonder what someone say about me if I died. You know at the hands police?" You know, and in a more funny way. At the same time, that's dark humor, right where we just we've even conditioned ourselves to sort of laugh in this pain. You know, like where we'll find humor through it all, you know, and we've been doing that for decades.

SAM:

I remember a couple years ago I was with my roommate and we went to go see a movie. And we came home late. It was like maybe like 12:30 in the morning. And as I'm pulling up to my apartment complex, there are three police officers that are just kind of parked next to our leasing office. And my brain just went "Fssssh!" and I turned around and I went to the gas station down the streets to grab, like drinks to give them time to leave.

I wasn't like... I wasn't drunk. I wasn't like I wasn't on anything. I was just I just had this conditioning, just like "I don't wanna drive past the cops at 12 30 in the morning." And it's that conditioning, right? Because it is me and my roommate, we laughed about it and we treated it like it was a joke. And then it was only after the moment had passed, and I was just like, "Wow, that's my life." Like, it's wild.

GODSWILL:

I've never done anything legally wrong.

ANDREW:

Not that you're going to confess on the air...

[Laughter]

GODSWILL:

Sorry, I torrented.

SAM:

It's a sting operation!

GODSWILL:

I torrented, LimeWire back in the day. I'm sorry!

You know, but I always have that sort of fear myself. You know, when driving past a cop I have cruise control on. What do I have to be worried about? But I'm still worried, and I don't want to get caught for anything, you know? It's like I don't wanna get even the chance, you know, for the worst of possibly happen.

SAM:

Like maybe your tail light's out and then suddenly, you're dead.

GODSWILL:

...Leads to so much more, then boom here we are. And I've always felt that, as long as I could drive, you know? I've always felt that fear and I have been a good noodle. I've been the goodest of boys, you know?

SAM:

All it takes is just an itchy person and a "where your hands" for the situation to go...

GODSWILL:

And we can't be the ones that are afraid. They can be afraid. Yeah, we have to be the ones to calm down.

ANDREW:

They have rights. It's crazy.

SAM:

It's just insane to me. Some people are saying like, "Well, do you expect police to, like, just be ok with being berated and yelled at?"

GODSWILL:

Yes!

SAM:

You expect your Starbucks Barista to be okay because they messed up your "mocha choco frappe latte."

[Laughter]

But you don't expect these people that have guns and are supposed to protect us to be held to an even higher standard than it then somebody who makes coffee.

Because of history, we have the right to be afraid, but that casts a suspicion on us, too. Because we're afraid just because of who we are, when we see these innocent people who have got murdered, and that's why we're afraid. But I guess to them it means that we're doing something wrong because we're afraid of them. That doesn't track. That doesn't work as an argument. It just doesn't.

ANDREW:

It's so systemic and generational and looking into the history of police in general in this country and everything. And kind like we were talking about earlier, about wanting the next generation to be more free and to be able to express themselves more and to survive, I would say, and outlive us right? Like I feel like just so many generations have told their kids "straighten up and fly right when you're out in public because they're already discriminating against you, whether or not they're saying anything nasty, your face." You just can't be safe and you can't be free to truly be yourself. If you don't have white skin. It's like things didn't just end once, you know the Emancipation Proclamation came out. Like things are not okay to this day. You have to act so much more safe and like, protected and like you can't say what's on your mind. And even so you're at a higher risk of getting in trouble in getting caught and getting killed. It's just, it's so crazy and it's such a huge issue. It's so much bigger of an issue than I realized growing up and going through high school and like learning about this historical stuff like "Okay, yeah, that

ended.” And then, you know, you learn about like the fifties and then you learn about today and it's like, “Okay, and everything's good now, like look at this success story.”

It has a nice little bow on it. Racism's over. Everything's good. But like no, it's been such a long battle already, and it's gonna be such a long battle in the future to fix all these issues you kind of brought up at the beginning, Godswill. About like neighborhoods and resources and there's so many issues that are going to take additional generations to truly overcome and to truly create equality. Not just in police reform, but there's so many additional things that need to be fixed. And that will take a lot of time and generations. There's just so much cultural change that needs to happen going forward, it's crazy.

SAM:

Even like the word “reform” and the word “fix” too like... is very like “we need to fix this,” is an easy way to say it, but like fix implies that if you change something, it will be better. But you mentioned the history of policing in this country. Like if you go all the way back to the times of slavery, if you look at it really critically, the modern police stemmed from groups of people that were sent out to capture these self-liberated people and bring them back to where they were. And those people were taken and enshrined as “the police”. So it's baked into the system, even the Emancipation Proclamation--a lot of people just like “Oh yeah, Abraham Lincoln, he like, freed the slaves.”

But the but like that was not some altruistic thing, either. Like it's important to know this history because he was all about the idea of preserving the union and bringing the South back into the union at all costs. He said that if he could do it without freeing anybody, he would have. And even suggested the idea meeting with leaders of the black people in this country and just taking them and sending them home. Because he said it was trouble for them to exist together.

ANDREW:

“Home” meaning Africa right at this point? Like that's just such a travesty. It's so insanely... insane that, like this is something that some group of humans thought was okay at some point. They don't get to go home to like some house, it's like, no, they have been taken out of their home country, taken across an ocean, and then they're like, “Well, let's just put 'em back, like it will be fine.”

SAM:

Yeah, because now, unfortunately, these people, who you stole, do not have a connection to their home anymore. Because you stole them. And now they've had generations that now know, nothing but this country as their home. And you think the best solution is to take everybody and just be like, “OK, bye,”

That's the thing. That's the reason why allies they're so important. Like white people started the problem. We don't expect allies to apologize for the sins of their ancestors, but we do expect

them to step up and help fix—and I said fix again... Help topple with system and build it back up. Into a system that is good for everyone, not just black people, not just white people, but everyone.

GODSWILL:

Yeah, that's the thing like especially with America. The biggest American dream has always been like it's always possible for everybody to be make it somehow, right? You know it's kinda wild that like now we become sort of America where we are afraid. Before we were like "we can send democracy to everybody and we can go to the moon. We can do all these things. Yeah!" You know, now it's like, "Oh, I don't know if we have enough resources to help those guys. I don't know if we can go over here, you know, we can't even help ourselves anymore." And it's sort of sad to see, like what America has been like in that sense. Um, but I still believe in the possibility in the America where we can help, everybody.

SAM:

Well think about how heartening it was, like how, like super cool it was to see SpaceX happen and see them launch that rocket. Like that's America! That's the America that we don't have any more, that we want back. Like this thing is like it's a place for equality. It's a place like "Take your broken, huddled masses. Like everybody belongs here. Everybody belongs on equal footing, like look at all this cool stuff that we're doing because we're so cool," like, that's the America I want. I want to be able to watch a rocket launch and be like, happy about it.

GODSWILL:

Unfortunately, our politics is what's sort of dominating us. It's sort of like putting us in a state of fear where we're now afraid to like, try to go to the moon again. And we're afraid to talk to other cultures. And we're afraid to try to find a solution that can help everybody.

We're back in this defensive like, "Ugh, I gotta protect my base. And if I don't protect my base, then no one's gonna help me," you know? And we have to get past that. But honestly, I wholeheartedly believe that we have to get rid of the chief instigator like, who benefits to keep us in this state of fear. We don't get to have that fun just yet until we have, like, leadership and like a government that it's like willing to do these things without us having to have an eye on them and, you know, without us having to be constantly just be like "Are you doing it now? Did you do it now? Will you do it now?" You know, so, yeah, we can't really get back to growth until we stop this. How we're gonna be able to move around while we're hurting?

[Music: I Can't Breathe—H.E.R.]

SAM:

Another thing that popped up very soon after the George Floyd murder was this concept of defunding the police. Which if you just kind of look at it without context, like it kind of looks scary if you don't know what it is. It's a start towards something better, cause it's the idea that we're going to take money from these very over-bloated police departments.

We give the police so much money every year to handle situations that they are unequipped to handle. And it's the idea of taking the money, that they don't need, and distributing it amongst other programs in the community. Like educational programs, after school programs, mental health programs, drug abuse programs, homeless assistance programs, things like that. So that you take the issues that are actually causing all of these... If you distribute the money properly and assign people that are actually equipped to handle these issues, you stop that from becoming a problem before it starts. And then you have a more open and healthy community because of it. And the reason why you see so much pushback on is because for somebody who has had like so much privilege for such a long time, even this much more accountability, like just this little bit of accountability, feels like oppression to them. And that's the whole problem. They don't really understand what it's like to be oppressed, so the like, like pushing their privilege just a little bit, feels that way to them.

GODSWILL:

And also one thing I would like to say with that is like we've been so indoctrinated to love the cops. Although I would say the black community of has always felt iffy about it for sure. Like, I mean, I've always felt iffy about them, I've never been like, "Oh, these guys are gonna help solve an ongoing problem, you know, in a peaceful manner." I've always been like "these guys are like the last resort." But, you know, like I would say, as a culture, we've grown to love cops, you know, with the movies and the TV show Cops, right?

SAM:

We've got cancelled, insane, like for after so many years.

GODSWILL:

Like you, right? Finally, after 30 plus years, right? I would say that's an important thing because, like now it all seems like an attack on a hollowed institution.

SAM:

NWA didn't make a song called Love the Police.

[LAUGHTER]

GODSWILL:

Like yeah, right? We would if they did their job, right. Like they stopped, you know, they stopped ongoing crimes and, like, they helped more people than they hurt. Unfortunately, it's skewed. And, you know, when we've had other examples of the police getting defunded and the resources being used better, in more smart ways.

SAM:

Camden, New Jersey did exactly that, where they took it down and they rebuilt it as a completely different system, and now they're doing so much better.

ANDREW:

You know, it's like they say, that that metaphor of, like, "If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail." If you are, like, trained on how to use a gun, and you carry a gun with you all the time, like you might eventually want to use it. Or like, have the instinct to use it, because you get so much training and so much focus on it.

But if you don't have that, you need to figure out how to solve problems with communication and empathy and like providing resources to the community.

GODSWILL:

And the crazy thing is, those guys are even trained with gun well, right? It would be one thing if at least they were trained like how to use a gun better, you know, like to not use it first. Not every situation even needs a gun brought to it.

SAM:

You can even expand that to just the police in general. Again it's about like funding these other these other systems too. But like to go back to that, like over the course of these last few weeks, with everything that's happening (like one once again, we're always learning about things). One of the things that I learned is that a barber in this country has to go to school for longer than a police officer needs to be trained to do their job. And even then, they still allow police officers to start policing before they're finished with their training.

And then I found a website where it's just like "look at all of these jobs that should not require as much discipline and training as the job of a police officer." We're giving them a weapon and they're told to go walk the streets and police and apparently dispense justice. Gang justice basically. And it's that's the other thing, too, is just like defund and then force the people that are going into this role to have to take more classes and, like, get some kind of criminal justice degree and take more training.

And, like even just that little bit of extra stuff is such a deterrent for people who are not going to do it for the right reasons. Like if you truly want to be a police officer and you truly want to do good, like you're gonna do that stuff because that's what you want to do.

Now you have police officers going to handle mental health calls and sensitive domestic abuse situations. And another thing that people don't talk about is that a lot of people on the autism spectrum (and that's something I'm very passionate about) get killed by police because sometimes they're nonverbal or they don't approach situations the same way as you or I would. And so all of these sensitive situations, because they don't have that training. And because they're being sent in to do things they shouldn't be doing.

ANDREW:

Or really anyone with any kind of disability. If you're deaf and you're not hearing them tell you to put the banana down or whatever. Like it's crazy how many situations there are, where it's just like someone didn't immediately obey you, so it looked like a threat to you.

Like not to be on the side of the cops at all, but like the fact that they have to be the judge and the jury every single instance when they meet somebody, and then the executioner sometimes. That's a thing that for like hundreds of years we've been like "This is too big of a role for any one person to do. We need to bring in like a jury of people to make these decisions." And then that's a whole big complicated thing.

It's like, no you have like a blink of an eye to figure out what you're gonna do. Are you gonna shoot this person or not? Like there's so much pressure on being a police officer. I feel like anyone whose like has a good heart is gonna get out of that game as quick as they can. And find a different profession, because there's just way too much pressure there. You see where the corruption comes from, I think, and just like how it's the wrong kinds of people in that role. And not that every single person who's ever been a police officer ever wanted to be is a bad guy. But I feel like if you're staying with that, then there's something going on there that's not healthy.

GODSWILL:

We definitely need this whole thing to be revamped, you know? Like I think like, deep down, we want defenders. For sure, you know? Like the world isn't like safe. And, you know, we could just do whatever you want.

SAM:

People are still gonna be people at the end of the day.

GODSWILL:

Yes. Absolutely. Yes. So, well, you know, we all get that, but at the same time now, everything is not Demolition Man. You know, like where everything is just, "Aaaaaagghhhh!"

[Laughter]

Like we need Sylvester Stallone to come out and just blow up everybody. You know, unfortunately I think it's like the sort of fear propaganda is going on. People outside of the situation think that the world is Demolition Man. They think that it's all on fire and the fire is gonna come to our spot unless we have, you know, these big macho men who just shoot first and don't have to worry about asking questions--just go, you know?

But that's not how the world is. It's like we are seeing more examples and more cases of places that use peaceful methods and actually like bettering the society to avoid, you know, the violence that they're afraid of, you know? We can do this!

SAM:

There's proof!

GODSWILL:

Yeah, exactly. There's veritable proof, you know, done by people who observed it and knew how to write notes well, right? And, ah, we can make it through. We need to get out of this fear of the other constantly. Like it's the fear of like the individual and then also fear of, like the group of people. Um, and unfortunately, so entrenched, but this is fixing it.

You know, having these conversations is fixing it. Seeing what's happening on the TVs and like the protests are happening and looking at the history of what happened and why this is happening again. That's the way we're gonna fix it, right?

ANDREW:

And that globalization--seeing what's working in other countries or other part of the world that like they've got a solution. We don't have to invent this from scratch. We can just kind of take what they're doing, maybe tweak it a little bit for our local area, and then we don't have these problems anymore.

I'm sure there'll be new problems, but at least these will be fixed.

SAM:

Verifiable things that you look at like a lot of European countries, and they haven't had police killing... some of them, ever. Some of them haven't had, like one since the early 2000s. Like it's easy, like we have the groundwork to make this work. And it's just because of, like the roots of where this country has evolved from, people don't want to make it work. People want it to stay the same, and that's the exact problem we're trying to solve.

GODSWILL:

And luckily I would say that's finally starting to get reversed. It's not yet reversed, is not yet "Racism's done". We're not yet there, but we're definitely on the way, you know? I mean, the fact we're getting so many allies on our side, that's so much progress, right? And not only allies are just bandwagoning, really, you know, like true allies, people who are there, like in the streets with us. You know, one thing that Martin Luther King said like was like the biggest problem to the movement (you know, when he was in Birmingham Jail) wasn't the Ku Klux Klanner, it's not like the people who are overt with the racism, and unfortunately, he said, verbatim, is the white moderate. You know is the one that's like, "Hey, you need to do it nicer or you need to do it a different time, or you need to do it this way in order for us to be with you". And luckily we're getting less of that. You know, we've had so many people that are like, "You know what? We're with it. We're not, we're not gonna wait, you know?"

Might have been people who might have had pushback at the beginning. Now we're getting more people there with it.

SAM:

Because at this stage in the game, we don't need just people who aren't racist. We need people who are actively anti-racist, who are willing to fight and call out and do these things with us.

Like that's the thing. Like it's not enough anymore to just be like, "Oh, well, I'm not racist, but..."--real quiet--we need loudness. We need you out there, like that's the whole point of it.

GODSWILL:

The anti-racist thing. I'm glad you brought that up. That's from Ibram X. Cindy I had mentioned before. He had a wonderful interview on Think. How he explained what it meant to be anti-racist. I think I came out like late last year, like October 2019. So definitely give that check. Um, and it should hopefully explain what it means to be anti-racist. That's what we need more of today. Like less people who are just like, "Hey, man, I'm not doing anything." you know?

No, we need people that are like, "Hey, I'm down to dismantle this system with you." You know, not people who are just sort of uh fairweather with it. People who are really willing to vote with us, talk with us. You know, and not even like a lot. I'm not even asking for, like, "Hey, everybody, give me, you know, give me your money and then I'll be good." No, you know, it's like it just is like, "Hey, are you down to—" I mean, if you won't give you the money, sweet.

[Laughter]

All right, but, you know, it is less of that. You know, like, that for sure. That all is great, but is more of like, "Are you down to talk with us and you down to, like, vote with us and like, down to, like, really, like, do the things that will give us all power?" You know, it's like I'm not even asking to take away power from you, in that sense. I just want to be on the same footing as you. so that way me and my people can be eating too, right?

ANDREW:

Right. And this change will happen at some point whether that takes a couple generations or a couple hundred years or whatever, it's gonna happen. It's just a matter of "Are you gonna be on the right side of history or you not?" Eventually certain people will start to die out and like demographics will shift and it'll be like, "Okay, now, finally, we can all be like in peace on this issue," but we could start that change now, and we can live to see those benefits. Instead of just pushing it off for Gen Z and their grandkids to try to solve. We can keep this momentum going and don't just let it be a trend, but like make it be a lifestyle. Make it be something you think about every day and that you act towards every day and with every vote and with, you know, every dollar that you spend support the right kind of businesses and stop following the wrong kinds of people on social media. There's just so much that you can do, regardless of what you've done in the past, start today and like make a change. And if everyone did that like, man, it would be amazing.

SAM:

That's really important to hear, too, because it's very easy to get to like to get so focused on, and like, drilled down. And then again, we talked about, like, the life balance and like doing good things for yourself. It's important to also remember, and it's important to hear that if you're supporting this movement, you are absolutely on the right side of history. You don't really think about that so much. You just think "we need to do, we need to go." But you never

really think about that part of it where it's just like, "Yeah, the history books are going to write about this and I'm gonna be on the side that my kids, my grandkids could be proud of me for what I did this to push this forward.

GODSWILL:

I'm such a nerd that I always think about like Assassin's Creed, like yeah, all right. My great great grand kids gonna play as me, I guess when ah, you know? And they're like, "Huh? How was 2020?" right? And then, like, big thing that, like, sorta motivates me is like, I hope my grandkids or like great grandkids or whatever they get to see what my life is. And they're like, "Wow, Great, great, Grandpa. God's will was cool. He did the right thing, you know, like he helped make it such a big deal."

Um, you know, and hopefully they'll excuse some of the less savory moments in my life that they have to fast forward through.

[Laughter]

I don't know. I'm sorry, kids.

SAM:

It's a personal thing, too, because, like, Andrew started this episode saying so many great things about, like building us up right? And imagine generations from now kids doing the same thing for you and just like, wow, look at like these cool, awesome things that this person did.

That's a positive side effect of doing the right thing, you know?

ANDREW:

If we have grandkids, someday they could just pull up our old social media stuff, you know they can be like, "Here's like what my grandparents were doing during, like, when the actual Black Lives Matter thing started to actually take hold." It's just crazy that there will be, like actual, you know, evidence of that. And like this audio file, I'm gonna do, like everything I possibly can to keep this on the internet for the rest of my life, like it is an important moment. And it's just, I don't know, people can start doing something today, even if they haven't yet. It's better late than never. We still need more momentum and more people running alongside.

GODSWILL:

Now, I'm really hoping that, like people who listen to this like will definitely have their minds changed. You know, like I mean, this is historically significant stuff that is gonna be archived. In the future when, you know, generations from now are looking at like "what did we do?" You know, it is gonna be stuff like this, and it is like everyone plays a part. We're making these history books now, you know, like, and it's gonna be hard to change what we did, because it's all out there. You know, the revolution is being televised right now, right? And we all have a part to play in it.

ANDREW:

All right. You just dated yourself, Grandpa. You reference books AND television. Everything's gonna be all lasers.

[Laughter]

GODSWILL:

Back in my day...

SAM:

I remember the Nintendo 64.

GODSWILL:

Grandpa, tell me, how was back in the days of early millennials in the 1990's? It was a wonderful time.

SAM:

And the other the other crazy thing, too is that because of how technology has progressed, because of that globalization, because of the internet because of everything like that, it is no longer like the phrase where "the winner writes history" is no longer a thing. Because you can see what happened, like we don't have to be as like, careful about anymore. History is documentable and it's... you can see it. It's verifiable at this point. It was a lot harder back then with like textbooks and stuff, like we have old documents, but there was no physical way to verify some of this stuff. Like technology has made things so much easier for these kinds of movements. And, that's gonna be so important going forward too.

ANDREW:

It's like you can't hide behind anything anymore. The transparency is there, whether you want it to be or not, Like no president in history has been... like Twitter has been like, "Actually, you know what this guy's saying is probably not the case." Like usually, the presidents all look pretty good when you read their little blurb in the textbook. But like, I don't think this guy's gonna be able to get away with that. Like that transparency is there...

GODSWILL:

You don't even need Twitter to say that it looks bad honestly.

[Laughter]

This guy has been putting egg on his face since day one. Well, unfortunately, since day negative 100, I don't know bro, he's been going at it for a while. So he's special in that sense. But you know that, I agree, though, like, where is like, yeah, it's hard to not be transparent. Yeah, because it's all out there. What you said in 2012 is going to come back in 2020 right? And I am sorta happy for that, because it is sort of making us all be like, "Okay, I could get canceled for what I say. So maybe I should just say good things now."

ANDREW:

Maybe that could be a motivation too if you have, you know, a racist uncle or whatever. And you're always like "Ehh, he'll die, I don't have to worry about it." But think about that, like you might wanna to tell them like, "Hey, this stuff is gonna be on the internet forever. Even if you stop, you know, you can stop saying and have a change of heart now, even just for that, like trying to save face and make your grandkids proud of you someday, like, just quit being racist!" like that's not the whole problem.

But change yourself about like all of these people and all these businesses that have gotten dropped because they have posted very openly racist things on the Internet and people like again Amy Cooper. She got fired and, like businesses like I know local but like I'm from Ohio originally said, it's another. It's another place where it's kind of like lots of like businesses, like local businesses that I grew up watching commercials about are no longer like people are dropping sponsorships for them. People aren't using them anymore. I have zero sympathy.

That's people is just like it is like, you know, we're We're at the point in history. We're calling these people out, and we're not accepting it anymore. You love to see it really Dio honestly, yeah, like it is very satisfying, Like where it's like all of the consequences were finally having Ah, they're intended. Do you know it's like these are things that we've seen and felt for So long and now everybody gets to see it. And not only are people seeing it, people are doing things about it like we're on C. I do want people to be afraid of doing bad behavior towards other people.

You know, I do want people be afraid of, um, you know, doing things that, like infringe upon the rights and the freedoms and happiness of other people. You know, I'm even seeing that happen. Life right now on Twitter with somebody else. Like where they did something bad. It's getting called out. There's consequences. They're happening is happening, like on faster than before. So, you know, it is sort of making us like, Hey, how do we think how we thinking about treating other people were being cautious of it.

Finally, you know, the Internet used to be like, just like our Our thoughts out loud now is like OK, maybe we should make sure our thoughts are okay. You know, maybe there is a problem in this sentiment I have, right? It's 2020. We're thinking about it now. 11 Last thing. I guess I would say about 2020 you know, it was like, you know, we all like started this year, like yet is are gonna be our year, decade all that yet I still honestly believe that. But you know, this is really like the year 2020 is the year that we see clearly we see, like our faults clearly, for one scene, yelling as like a nation as a world as individuals and as people you know, just is the year we get to finally see clearly.

So you know, I am grateful for this year, even though it has been hard here. It's It's been absolutely needed. I feel the same way about this. Obviously, 2020 has been this mean radically. Okay, what's what says is that the murder hornets their back like What's what's July's thing gonna be involved? But But, like it's super important, like a lot of people. Is the colleges right? 2020. But like we can write 2020 off like COVID. It happened, and that what that was like

so bad. But think about like, how much better we're going to be prepared for something else like this happening in the future.

All the stuff with George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, all these other people and like people are finally awake now. And so we absolutely cannot write this year off because, like you said, it's the year that we and we started to see clearly. I learned how to wash my hands this year. Think about all the songs that you that you remembered because they have very famous sections. 20 seconds thing, right? I mean, this year has been good, you know, like even just that little bit. But, you know, like I would say, this year has been great because of the amount of progress we've made and you know, Yeah, it hurts.

Yeah, it's not, You know, it started from a bad impetus, you know, like the amount of pain that we have been feeling And, you know, like a bad straw that broke our backs to make this happen. And, yeah, like the build up because of a pandemic that, unfortunately was killed too many people. But, you know, there has been so many good things that have come out of this, you know, like, I feel like we're finally moving on into a modern error, you know? Are you actually thinking about like, hey, maybe we can make the world a better place, finally, one way or another.

So I'm grateful for this time like it does suck, but like it is absolutely needed. I absolutely respect both of your voices so much, and it's been so great hearing both of you together like it's like as a fan. It's like I just have, like, this cool mash up that I thought of and then like it happened. And I'm like, Oh, it's like right here. Oh, my God is so cool. Eso Thank you for sharing your opinions. Thank you for being yourselves and for what you're doing out there in the world.

But if the audience loves you, which I'm sure that they do, where can they find you to get more of that good good content? I am. Ah, Sam vs Sam. I don't have ah custom er on YouTube yet. I'm working on it, but you can get there. You can go to bit by a white board slash sam vs Sam get my YouTube channel. Um, I am currently allowing myself to have Flanagan's. I do make fun videos too, but I'm going to also be I'm gonna be supplementing like you know, I'm gonna have a fun video and then also still talk about this stuff because that's important.

So check out money to channel and then Twitter is also Sam vs Sam. I post stuff there. Any project that I'm working on is going to be posted about on there. May or may not be working on a very special writing project that I'm very excited about. So, uh, so stay tuned to that. I'm excited for that. Is this Sam ves Sam? Um, it's like you spent the first VRs us. Either one. Either one will get you to the YouTube channel, but the Twitter is fully spelled out.

Kuku, I'm trying look that up right now, but and I mean, it was absolute pleasure Teoh to talk with you on this in Andrew, your questions have been so good. Honestly, like from to get I was like, Boom, this guy's come with fire, and I appreciate that going for it? Yes. You know, I'm grateful that we have an ally like you. Honestly, because you have educated yourself really well already. And, you know, like you You came with fire questions and this this you know, even the idea of doing this like has been, like, so great to me.

And I appreciate that now I'm just like, Dang, this was great. I'm trying to curse, But it was great. I used to not curse settled. And I feel like last year started cursing. It used to be such a good night. No, I used to be a good and things changed the fire nation attack. And then I I became I became what I am today of anyways, if you like what I am today, Thank you. My name is God's will. Uh, my name is God's will. That's my real name.

My full name is God's will. Ugly Junior. I have use of the preface with that, um as g o d s w i l l u g w a j r. And I have, um you can find that on Twitter, instagram, even Facebook. Yeah, you know, And then also I do a podcast too called That's dope, where we talk about fun, things that usually always evolves, dissolves no devolves. Elena, with the right word is that we talked about one piece of life. But, you know, we always try talk about dope things, whether that's video games animated.

Ah, politics, mindsets. We had polit every had an episode about Islam because it was Ramadan. Ah, you know, just try talk about dope things. And you also need to have both you guys on the episodes Pretty soon. But, you know, we just try to have fun, whatever we do, and we try to do dope things in the world, um, you know, sort of like my own creed of sorts. So yeah, and I don't know, like, where all this is gonna end up, so I'll do like a PC. We can edit out if we need to, but my name's and respond.

I'm at spontaneous, but it's s p o H N t a N e O U s. Wow. I should, uh, Social Media. The podcast I do is called Amusements Parks. It's a casual amateur theme park design show, and both of these guys have been guest in the past. And maybe I was thinking during this conversation, like, man, once this we're doing, like theme park design episodes again. I know you both are interested in kingdom hearts like maybe we could do like a group of three thing or something.

Yes, I'm down. You know I'm down to do with you too. I think that would be a good time. Right on Also, Sam, I like your tattoos. I didn't get to say that before. I can figure tattoos. Yeah, all the nerds like, uh oh, I love it. Well, thank you for listening. And I was kind of a weird episode. But just remember, no matter what happened in the past, what you learned what you didn't learn. It's not too late to learn something new today. Like, just go to Sam's YouTube videos, like his most recent one in the links there.

So much research he already did for you. If you're feeling lazy, but it's still ignorant. Go click on those links and you can learn for yourself like that's an easy starting point. I actually specifically have a link. It's rebrand.ly/svsBLM It will take you to a playlist of all my videos that have done surrounding the public. So if you want to just get right to that.

Thank you for listening. And uh, be part of the change, guys.

[Outro Music: Amusement Sparks Theme—Andrew Spohn]