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Someone once said that “Ignorance is bliss”, but is that truly the case? Throughout history it has been ignorance, a chosen stupidity of sorts, that has been the main cause of social and political strife for people around the globe. As Socrates once said “There is only one good, that is, knowledge; and there is only one evil, that is, ignorance”; a statement proved time and time again on both a global and personal level, as people are faced, even in the modern, and supposedly enlightened, era with the difficulties of ignorance.

The consequences of ignorance have left their trail throughout the world's history as it creates difficulties for all involved. During the early 1960's the civil rights movement brought to light the innate ignorance that possessed the white population of the south. They pursued the idea that because of the color of their skin they were a cut above the rest of the population who hold a darker complexion. An even more extreme example of this kind of ignorance could be found in South Africa less than twenty years ago, where there was a whole government system centralized around that idea. Ignorance scarred these societies, and blemished their histories with its dark mark. As things began to come to life the bliss was gone, but if one is to take Socrates' quote literally the evil had also left. Each of these societies are still recovering from the long lasting negative effects that ignorance has brought upon them. These two incidents also show how far reaching the effects of ignorance can be.

Ignorance does not have to take place on a global scale, it can also root its way into personal everyday life. For most of my life I attended a small private Jewish day school, so my religion was never an issue to anyone. I guess you could say I was ignorant or innocent to believe that the religious hate and persecution that Jews had received throughout history had ended with the travesties of the Holocaust, but in the end I was wrong. Well most people were accepting, or indifferent, to my religion, but when I entered public school I was introduced to a whole new type of person. This group of people viciously taunted me for my beliefs, shouting slurs into my face that I will remember for the rest of my life. They were my first encounter with ignorance and they will not be my last. Even at this point in time I have been forced to defend myself

against a stereotype perpetrated by many years of ignorance and hate. This just goes to show how even in the modern time period ignorance is still in existence.

The one good thing about ignorance is that it does have the ability to end. And, although it is not an enjoyable process, the world can be left in a better place as the evil that is ignorance is irradiated. As people discover knowledge the world becomes a better and more enlightened place. So although ignorance may be bliss, knowledge is a much more beneficial tool for life.