

Chabad irginia

Dear Friends,

In the face of yet another devastating school shooting, this time in our own backyard, our hearts are heavy with grief for the families affected by this tragedy. Words are inadequate to express the depth of our sorrow.

Yet we dare not remain silent. This senseless tragedy is indicative of a moral rot at the heart of our nation. Every day, we witness fellow Americans losing their lives in senseless acts of violence. We have become so inured and immune to these tragedies that they are commonplace. Perhaps we are fortunate that they still even make the news.

Predictably, this tragedy will no doubt lead to the regular and sickening political debate whether it is the guns or the people, the state of mental health or the need for stricter gun laws. People, politicians, and lobbyists on the right and left will use the tragedy to posture for their own particular positions, but sadly, nothing of course will change.

Unless individuals of courage demand a deeper examination, we will fail to uncover the true source and underlying causes of this national affliction. How can we have become so distanced from God that we no longer see the image of God in a fellow human being? How could a nineteen-year-old be so full of rage as to lose touch with his own humanity and that of his victims?

The absence of God is what we should all be focusing on. It should be deeply concerning that a significant number of American children have never been told that they have immeasurable worth as divine beings, having been created in the image of God. America is becoming bereft of forgiveness. It is becoming bereft of love. It's becoming more angry, divided and partisan, and there is no one left to say STOP!

Unfortunately, if we don't courageously say stop, it never will.



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