

Lyceum 120, November 20, 2025 – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.” – Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

Remarkable Black Women Who Quietly Changed History

These ten remarkable Black women defied barriers and reshaped history—often without the recognition they deserved. Across science, sports, politics, and civil rights, their bold actions and quiet strength helped build a more just future. Their stories continue to inspire and demand to be remembered. However, recently there are nefarious attempts, in some circles, not to change history but to erase from history books a history of the contributions of persons of color who have enhanced, enriched, and thus morally and rightfully belong as women who have changed history for the betterment of everyone.

-Roger J. Vanden Busch

“Immigrants of color never have been fully assimilated into U.S. society. They instead join a racially stratified society with deep inequalities that will forever deny them the opportunity available to their white counterparts to be fully integrated into the national community.” - Kevin John

“In the United States, we have the richest mix of ethnic groups, of racial groups, of global experience that the world has ever known, and it is this richness of this mix that yields our incredible creativity and innovation. We have not even begun to experience the real potential of our fantastic human resource mix – our competitive edge in the global economy.”

-James Naisbitt.

My Turn.

We are made in the image of God, in Latin = Imago Dei; DEI = OF God in Latin; note DEI = also means D=Diversity; E=Equity; and I=Inclusivity, 3 human rights which are universally given to us by God whose image we are. Yet, millions of human beings are being discriminated against, rounded up, and arrested without due process because of who they are or the color of their skin. Beware you faithless and heartless creatures who lurk in the darkness of night, seeking revenge, greed, power, threats, immoralities, moral hypocrisies, planting seeds of destruction and endless lies, giving inhuman and sinful orders; and you who blindly commit such evil deeds upon men, women, children created in God's image without due process of the Law of God and our Constitution; you are desecrating and destroying the Imago (Image), the Facies(Face), the Nomen (name), the very Natura(Nature) DEI(of God) – an unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit; you are spiritually and morally bankrupt, being sucked into the vortex of your final condemnation. You have become gods by your evil intentions and actions, and unless you have a Metanoia – a change of heart, mind, and once again become God's, you will have condemned yourself and deaf to God's final gesture of love and forgiveness, "turn around and come as far as you can, and I will come the rest of the way" Being a sinner, I pray that daily I will hear your voice and return to you as being created Imago DEI. Time is melting away. -Roger J. Vanden Busch.

Claudette Colvin

In 1955, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat. She later became one of the plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, the case that ended bus segregation. Yet, Civil rights leaders sidelined her due to her age and pregnancy. Her juvenile record was cleared many years later, cementing her legacy.

Bessie Coleman

Denied entry to U.S. flight schools, Bessie Coleman learned French and trained in France in 1921, becoming the first Black and Native American woman pilot. Nicknamed "Brave Bessie," she thrilled crowds with aerial stunts and rejected segregated shows. She dreamed of opening a flight school for Black pilots, but she died before achieving it.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler

In 1864, Crumpler was the first Black woman in the U.S. to earn an M.D. She treated former slaves in Virginia despite constant racism. One of only three hundred women physicians nationwide, she published a rare 1883 medical book, the first by a Black doctor. Sadly, her contributions went unrecognized long after her death.

Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells bravely exposed lynching in the 1890s through fearless journalism. She co-founded The NAACP in 1909 with W.E.B. Du Bois and others to fight for civil rights and racial justice. Refusing to give up her train seat long before Rosa Parks, she was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2020.

Madam C.J. Walker

Born to formerly enslaved parents, Madam C.J. Walker created a beauty empire in the early 1900s, becoming the first female self-made millionaire. Traveling by train, she sold her products nationwide, employing over 20,000 women across North America and the Caribbean. Her mansion stood proudly among those of New York's wealthiest elite.

Dorothy Vaughan

Dorothy Vaughan was NASA's first African American supervisor, leading the West Area Computing unit of Black women mathematicians. A key figure in the early U.S. space program, she secretly taught herself and her team FORTRAN programming. Portrayed by Octavia Spencer in "Hidden Figures," Vaughan worked for 28 years without formal recognition until the 2000s.

Althea Gibson

Playing paddle tennis in Harlem, Althea Gibson broke racial barriers in sports. She became the first Black Grand Slam winner in 1956, then won Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals in 1957 and 1958. Later, she broke ground in pro golf. Despite her fame, she faced financial struggles and faded from the spotlight.

Henrietta Lacks

Henrietta Lacks was a Black mother of five who succumbed to cervical cancer in 1951. Her cells, taken without consent, became the first immortal human cell line named HeLa—driving breakthroughs in polio, cancer, IVF, and COVID-19. However, her family was not informed for 20 years, which sparked a global debate over medical ethics and consent.

Mary McLeod Bethune

A pioneering educator and activist, Mary McLeod Bethune founded a school for African American girls in 1904, which later evolved into Bethune-Cookman University. She advised President Roosevelt and founded the National Council of Negro Women. Her legacy was cemented with the first statue of a Black American in the Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

Fannie Lou Hamer

Fannie Lou Hamer challenged all-white delegations at the 1964 Democratic Convention. A fearless voting rights activist, she registered to vote despite suppression. Hamer survived a brutal jailhouse beating and lived with lasting injuries. Her powerful words, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired," still echo.

-Internet.

Misunderstandings about Christianity.

Christianity may be the world's most studied faith, yet strange myths cling to it like gum on a shoe. Some are half-truths, others pure invention, but all create confusion. Ready to peel back the rumors and see what is true? Grab your curiosity, it is time to fact-check faith.

1. Christians Disagree About Everything

Though Christians may disagree on specific practices, their faith is rooted in a shared belief in Jesus Christ and salvation. These differences resemble family disagreements, minor in comparison to the deeper bond of common values and the sense of community. Scripture highlights this unity to portray believers as one body in Christ.

2. Christianity Is Just About Following Rules

Christians do not simply follow a divine checklist of dos and don'ts. The heart of their faith lies in a transformative connection with God through grace. Far from being a "fun-killer," Christianity offers believers genuine freedom, love, hope, happiness, and joy. The gospel message celebrates life rather than constraining it.

3. Christianity Is the Same as Every Other Religion

The perception that all religions teach the same basic moral principles overlooks Christianity's distinctive foundation. Beyond the Golden Rule, Christianity centers on Jesus Christ's supernatural resurrection and his dual nature as God and man. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, believers experience inner change that leads them toward holy living.

4. There Are Multiple Ways to Get to Heaven

Plenty of Americans like to think heaven has many doors, each leading to the same place. Christianity pushes back on that idea. In John 14:6, Jesus makes it clear with His words: "No one comes to the Father except through me." For Christians, which settles the matter.

5. The Bible Has Been Changed Throughout the Years

The Dead Sea Scrolls, first discovered in the mid-20th century, provide compelling evidence against claims of Biblical corruption. These ancient manuscripts, dating back to the third century BCE, match modern Bible texts with remarkable accuracy. While minor variations exist, they do not affect core Christian teachings or doctrinal integrity

6. The Bible Supports Slavery

Ancient biblical passages addressing slavery reflect historical context rather than divine endorsement. Although the Old Testament contains regulations for slavery practices, it simultaneously promotes human dignity and freedom. Modern debates often overlook key details, like Exodus 21:16's death penalty for slave traders and kidnappers.

7. Christianity Is All About Judgmentalism and Hypocrisy

Critics usually point to hypocritical believers, but authentic Christianity stands against judgment and pretense. Faith calls for genuine transformation, not merely Sunday appearances. In fact, core Christian teachings emphasize humility, grace, respect, justice, and love for others. Plus, real faith demands consistent practice beyond church walls.

8. Christianity Is About Legalism or License

Two opposing myths paint Christianity as either endless rules or complete freedom from moral constraints. Neither captures the faith's true essence. Since salvation comes through faith rather than following laws, this gift of grace carries responsibility. Christians are also called to ethical living, restricted behavior.

9. God Tests People with Suffering Like Cancer

A pervasive myth suggests that God deliberately inflicts diseases like cancer to test people's faith. The misconception distorts both Christian teaching and God's character. Traditional teachings emphasize that while God may allow suffering, he does not directly cause illness as a test of faith.

10. Shepherds Break the Leg of The Wandering Lamb

The tale of shepherds breaking lambs' legs to keep them from straying is false. Despite its frequent appearance in modern sermons as a spiritual metaphor, this story cannot be found in any historical shepherding documents or biblical texts. It is a recent urban legend that caught on through repetition.

-Internet.