



BlackEconomics.org

### “Sustainability”

If something is good and valuable, we want it to last forever. We want it to be sustained.

However, nothing lasts forever.

Even the creation, our cosmos, is subject to the vagaries of time and will one day cease.

Within Black America, many favorable developments have arisen. Unfortunately, many have not been sustained.

Formerly the bedrock of our community, the Black family, is failing with over 70% of Black children being born out of wedlock, and with the availability of marrying-age Black males being restricted by very high, if now declining, incarceration rates.

Several of the nation’s very old historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), which are charged with maintaining a tradition of scholarly excellence in our community, are slowly but steadily falling by the wayside.

Martin Luther King’s Civil Rights Movement fell from its 1960’s pace of progress. Today’s civil rights organizations are ineffective because they “go along to get along.”

Nation of Islam efforts to make Black America more productive and independent almost came to a halt in the 1970s. Given Minister Louis Farrakhan’s advancing age, we fear that that effective movement may not be sustained beyond his passing.

Conversely, an important institution, which has been sustained in form if not in substance, is the Black church.

Why has the Black church been sustained and what are the keys to sustainability?

For institutions, organizations, movements, or anything for that matter to be sustained, they must contain an immutable genetic code (DNA) that guarantees sustainability.

Like corn seeds that always produce corn plants and more corn seeds, human institutions, organizations, and movements must include genetic material (systems) that ensure sustainability.

They must embody long-range plans with provisions for course corrections (viz., the US Constitution); systematic processes for leadership succession (viz., the Catholic Church); and flexibility to evolve (viz., the creation).

However, the most important key to sustainability for Black American institutions, organizations, and movements is a willingness on our part to WORK diligently and selflessly to make them successful.

The reason the corn seed is always successful in producing corn is because earth, water, air, and sun are always there doing their part.

Likewise, we must be committed to serving as earth, water, air, or sun to ensure that our institutions, organizations, and movements are sustained.

As a result, we can avoid the hazardous stops and starts to our efforts to preserve ourselves as a people and as a nation within the larger American nation.

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