

## Humans of Life Row Responses - Antonio Kenrick

**1. Who are your people?**

People of color and white people on the side of the oppressed.

**2. Who do you claim and who claims you? Who are you accountable to?**

I claim the descendants of slaves, and they claim me in return. I am accountable to everyone who is committed to justice and God.

**3. What are you known for? What do you want to be known for?**

I want to be known as a justice fighter, and I am known as a fearless defender of justice.

**4. What is the first sound you hear when you wake in the morning?**

My thoughts.

**5. What makes you feel safe?**

Knowing that God has my back.

**6. What is something unselfish that you've done?**

I just fed someone and gave groceries (commissary) to someone who had none.

**7. What is something you do differently now, since the pandemic?**

Pay closer attention to structural and systematic racism.

**8. What law would you change for the betterment of humanity?**

The unwritten law that a white life is more meaningful than a black one.

**9. If you could change anything in the world, what would that be?**

Read inequality.

**10. What is a position that you've taken that you've changed your mind about?**

There is no such thing as a victimless crime.

**11. What does freedom smell like?**

A woman's perfume.

**12. Tell a story about where you live.**

N/A.

**13. What's one thing that you've worked hard to change about yourself?**

Being more patient with people who perpetuate nonsense.

**14. What does prayer mean to you? What does study mean to you? What does discipline mean to you? (choose one)**

Prayer is the time that I am able to talk to God and give him all of my problems.

**15. It's been said (by a friend to me) that the most meaningful lessons are those that you have to learn over and over again. What do you think?**

I think the most meaningful lessons are the ones that change your life immediately. Something that impacts you to the point where you know you'll never be the same.

**16. What are you proud of?**

My kids and my vision.

**17. What is your Achilles Heel?**

My kids.

**18. What is your superpower?**

My vision. My ability to see things that other people don't see.

**19. "Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word "love" here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace — not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth" - James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time.**

**What do you think about this quote?**

I agree with it wholeheartedly. Love is deeper than what people tend to make it. James Baldwin recognizes the true purpose and reach of love.

As a child, I would watch the Dukes of Hazzard television show, and I loved Bo and Luke Duke's car. The name of the car was the General Lee, and it was red, fast and had a huge super cool flag painted on the hood. Being a kid, I didn't know that General Lee was a real general, confederate nor otherwise and a slaveowner. Nor did I know that the cool flag was a confederate flag. When I got older, I was pissed off that my grandfather, with whom I watched the show, allowed me to romanticize that symbol of hate and oppression. Exercising due diligence, I also found out that the flag wasn't even the official confederate flag but General Lee's battle flag.

Today, white supremacists — you know the people who want to make America great again — still rock the flag like a sacred religious emblem. Even though the flag represents a people who fought viciously to keep my ancestors enslaved, the white nationalists and many other white people believe there's nothing wrong with it. That's why until recently, confederate flags found solace for over a century at capitol buildings and courthouses throughout the south.

Many white southerners argue that the confederate flags and the statues of confederate army heroes should stay because they represent important American history. However, that argument is hypocritical coming from people who believe that African American history has no educational significance.