

Letters

[Linguistics](#), [English](#)



Arguments in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Paragraph 26 "LET me rush on to mention my other disappointment. I have been disappointed with the white church and its leadership. Of course, there are some notable exceptions. I am not unmindful of the fact that each of you has taken some significant stands on this issue. I commend you, Reverend Stallings, for your Christian stand this past Sunday in welcoming Negroes to your Baptist Church worship service on a nonsegregated basis. I commend the Catholic leaders of this state for integrating Springhill College several years ago."

Logical argument: King points to the fact that he is disappointed by the way church leaders are carrying out their leadership activities. This draws reference to the way they have mistreated the Negro population at the time they pray. Freedom has been denied and this is what disappoints King.

Emotional argument: King's approach is a calm way to draw back his audience. He appreciates their little effort in transforming their attitude towards leadership in the event of Negroes.

Ethical argument: By informing his audience that he is not unmindful of the fact that a number of them have taken steps in handling the issue amicably, he implies that he is sensitive. This wins the clergymen's love after he has admonished their poor leadership. He finds it important to appreciate the efforts so far involved so that they can keep on improving.

Relationship of the paragraph to the Rest of the Letter

King decides to speak this way after realizing that most black people were being discriminated in church matters and therefore it is imperative that this kind of attitude is discouraged among the clergymen. The church essentially

should unite people. Their grievances were not being put forward. He realized that demonstrations had increased among the African American populace following the bad treatment they received from other white people in the United States of America.

Work Cited:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail. 1963