We Like Our Town This Way

There was a town and it had people pretty much like you and me. It was nice there. It was usually warm, sometimes hot. Plants and animals flourished. When the rains came, the earth drank it up.

The people were nice too. They loved their friends and took care of their pets. They worked really hard to take care of their families. Just like you, the kids went to school, some did well, and some didn’t and they couldn’t wait for summer vacation. These people were also involved with their community. They all went to church and some sang in the choir. They had picnics with their friends. They gave gifts to those poorer than themselves.

But there was something interesting about these people. Their town was separated into two groups. The Woodsies and the Riverlings did everything separately. They had their picnics, they went out to eat, went to church, watched movies, rode buses, and went to school with their own people even though they were very much like each other. They even had signs that pointed out their areas. And everyone got along just fine.

After looking around the town one started to wonder why they did everything by themselves. Don’t they want to get to know each other?

In fact, someone asked one of the Riverlings, "Don’t you want to get to know the Woodsies?" She replied quickly, "Why, of course not! We each have our own place and we like it that way. Besides we aren’t the same. They do things differently. They eat different kinds of food and listen to different kinds of music."

Then someone asked one of the Woodsies if he ever wanted to go and visit the Riverlings. He thought awhile and sighed, "Well, I tried to be part of them once but they pointed to the sign and told me I was in the wrong place. But the reason that I wanted to go over to their side was because they have nicer restaurants, and the bus seats that they sit on are softer. In fact, they even have a pool in their park. I tried to swim in their pool but they said that I was too dirty, but I had just taken a bath. I knew that wasn’t true.

Once one would start looking closer at the tiny little village one would notice that the Woodsies had very little choice at all in the separations, but the Riverlings could go anywhere that they wanted. They could even cross over into the Woodsies side without asking. And the
more that one would look, the more you noticed that it wasn't peaceful at all.

Anytime that anything went wrong in the Riverlings side they would blame it on the Woodsies even though they hadn't done anything and the problems got worse and worse.

Finally the Woodsies had had enough. They wanted to share. They asked nicely if they could share and the Riverlings still said that they couldn't make any decisions. So the Woodsies decided that they would all get together and march into the Riverlings area and that they would sit there until they changed their minds. They did this and there was lots of fighting. The Riverlings didn't want to change their minds. But in the end they did and now they all share the same land and the same parks and the same restaurants. In fact, they have found that after many years they don't have as many differences as they thought they did.