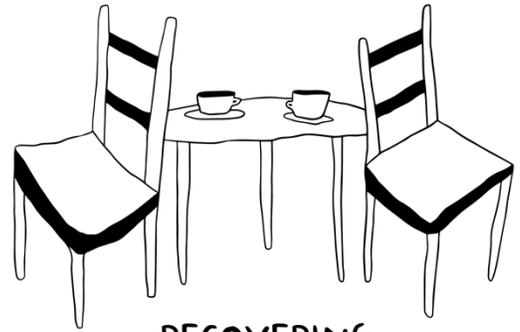


Next Steps in Civility

September 27, 2020

We cannot become people of peace and civility without taking a first step. Here are some ideas and resources as you take your next step.



RECOVERING CIVILITY

FBC · SEPT. 2020

Building Bridges

Fast from criticizing – We live in an age of rampant criticism. We critique and judge without even being aware of it. Set aside a 24-hour period to fast from all criticism. When you catch yourself entertaining a critical thought, give it to God and ask for his help to give grace to the person or group of whom you feel critical.

Invest in a new friendship – Following the example set by Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia, strike up a friendship with someone who is different from you (different in world view, religious affiliation, or race). As a first step, ask God to bring such a person into your life. In the process, he/she just might ask you about the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).

Pray for your “enemies” – Is there a politician, co-worker, relative, or neighbor with whose viewpoint you disagree (and for whom you may even feel contempt)? Pray a prayer of blessing over him/her, just as Jesus did for us.

Reading on Civility

Uncommon Decency - Richards Mouw’s classic work on civility is a great place to start.

Love Kindness – Barry Corey (President of Biola) has written a very readable and practical book that will move us into a life of civility and kindness.

Humilitas – John Dickson’s book uncovers the importance of humility as we navigate relationships and all of life.

Web Resources on Civility

Nicholas Kristof, Tim Keller, John Inazu: Civility in the Public Square:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5H0Jv5xTBk&t=1594s>

Ted Talk: “Why I, as a black man, attend KKK rallies” with Daryl Davis

https://www.ted.com/talks/daryl_davis_why_i_as_a_black_man_attend_kkk_rallies?language=en

Re-thinking Social Media

To minimize the clustering effects of social media, try the following.

Watch “Our Social Dilemma” – This Netflix documentary-drama explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations. It helps explain why social media is so deeply polarizing.

Social media check-up – When you have some time to think and pray, give some space to reflect on this question: *Are my social media habits a desolation or a consolation?* In other words, are they life-giving or life-depleting? What new practices with social media would you like to implement?