Politics, Religion, & Holy Conversation

**September 16, 2019**

**Goals:**

1. Do some cultural diagnosis
2. Do some Self-diagnosis – why do I believe what I believe
   1. Which moral foundations are most important to me?
   2. How are these things aligned with the political party of my preference (or not).
   3. Is it ok to share community with someone with differing moral foundations?
3. Talk about Scripture, theology, and our callings as Christians.
4. Talk about influences in this world that affect our perceptions and loyalties.
5. Talk to someone with very different views, seek to understand each other.
6. Discuss how to engage in civil discourse outside of this setting.

Other Goals? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ground Rules:**

1. Please treat each other with respect and dignity.
   1. Don’t make personal attacks.
   2. Don’t interpret difference of opinion as personal attack.
   3. NO profanity, name-calling\*, derogatory terms (stupid, ignorant…), shouting or other attempts at intimidation, insulting body language (such as eye-rolling), insulting tone of voice (baby talk, speaking “down” to a person), open hostility, ridicule, biting sarcasm, any other disrespectful acts.
      1. Name-calling can include words ending in –ist, or –phobe or beginning with anti – and similar critical terms. These are modern, politicized variations on name-calling but are still labels that can be considered hurtful and counterproductive when used to condemn or demonize a person or their ideas.
2. Please use “I” language when describing an experience or belief. You are entitled to your own opinion but in this setting you may not speak on behalf of an entire group. (“**I** disagree with what you said. Here is what **I** believe.”)
3. Please seek to listen to others fully before responding.
4. Please seek to limit the length of stories, antidotes, or examples.
5. Please seek to limit cross table conversations while others are speaking.

**Notes:**

**Martin Luther on the 8th Commandment**

***You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.***

**What does this mean for us?**

We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend them, speak well of them, and explain their actions in the kindest way.

**Christian Unity in Scripture:**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-13**  Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

**2 Corinthians 13:11-13**  Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. 13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**Colossians 3:12-17**  As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.