

Faithful Disagreement:

*Building Durable Relationships
with God & Each Other*

A Course in Three Parts
moderated by Tom Gamble & David Ealy



FORUM 103: WEEK 3

Wielding Our Power to Heal

Introduction

Remember the Ground Rules

Be mindful of the covenant we established as a class:

- Have respect for one another**
- Care enough to listen**
- One person speaks at a time**
- Confidentiality**
- Reserve Judgement**
- Speak Up**
- Listen**
- Pray**

Earnestness in Our Discourse

We have been together now for some time now. Our artificially established trust is the principle vehicle for our “lab” of using the skills we have been learning to talk about potentially difficult things. From time to time the facilitators will participate, moderate and even provoke over the course of our conversations in class. This is to further the observation of how our skills work in real time and to learn more about our own approaches to talking about things important to us. Have patience with the process.

Looking Ahead

We are nearing the end of time together (at least in terms of this class). Be thinking of your remaining questions related to effective discourse and we will engage them as a group.

Facilitators

TOM GAMBLE has led development of self-managing work teams in manufacturing facilities. His contact information is rtgamble122@aol.com or 336-578-3632.

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SESSION OUTLINE

- Introduction2
- Semantic Warnings3
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Revised Course Schedule

Forum 103

April 27 & May 11 @ 3pm Weeks 4 & 5: Practicing what we preach.

Semantic Warnings

DEFINITIONS

Healing |'hēliNG|

noun

the process of making or becoming sound or healthy again:
the gift of healing.

adjective

tending to heal; therapeutic: *a healing experience | the healing process.*

Heal |hēl|

verb

- [with obj.] (of a person or treatment) cause (a wound, injury, or person) to become sound or healthy again: *his concern is to heal sick people.*
- [no obj.] become sound or healthy again: *he would have to wait until his knee had healed.*
- alleviate (a person's distress or anguish): *time can heal the pain of grief.*
- correct or put right (an undesirable situation): *the rift between them was never really healed.*

Touch |təCH|

verb [with obj.]

- 1 come so close to (an object) as to be or come into contact with it: *the dog had one paw outstretched, not quite touching the ground.*
- come or bring into mutual contact: [no obj.] : *for a moment their fingers touched* | [with obj.] : *we touched wheels and nearly came off the road.*
- 2 handle in order to manipulate, alter, or otherwise affect, esp. in an adverse way: *I didn't play her records or touch any of her stuff.*
- cause harm to (someone): *I've got friends who'll pull strings —nobody will dare touch me.*
- [with negative] used to indicate that something is avoided or rejected: *he was good only for the jobs that nobody else would touch.*
- 3 have an effect on; make a difference to: *a tenth of state companies have been touched by privatization.*
- produce feelings of affection, gratitude, or sympathy in: *she was touched by her friend's loyalty.*



Love |ləv|

noun

- 1 an intense feeling of deep affection: *babies fill parents with intense feelings of love | their love for their country.*
- a deep romantic or sexual attachment to someone: *it was love at first sight | they were both in love with her | we were slowly falling in love.*
- (Love) a personified figure of love, often represented as Cupid.
- a great interest and pleasure in something: *his love for football | we share a love of music.*
- affectionate greetings conveyed to someone on one's behalf.
- a formula for ending an affectionate letter: *take care, lots of love, Judy.*
- 2 a person or thing that one loves: *she was the love of his life | their two great loves are tobacco and whiskey.*
- *Brit. informal* a friendly form of address: *it's all right, love.*
- (a love) *Brit. informal* used to express affectionate approval for someone: *don't fret, there's a love.*

The James 5:15-16 passage talks about healing. What part of these definitions do you think the author is pointing to?

Conversing with Scripture

Introduction

When reading the James 5 passage again, now do so looking for examples of what causes healing and the goal of healing. How might you apply these principles to the way you have conversations or even arguments?

James 5:12-16

¹² Most important, my brothers and sisters, never make a solemn pledge—neither by heaven nor earth, nor by anything else. Instead, speak with a simple “Yes” or “No,” or else you may fall under judgment.

¹³ If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. ¹⁴ If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve.

Verses or Phrases that apply to having conversation:

Is healing always possible?

Should healing always be the goal?

Advice from James I don't practice:

Advice from James I practice:



Healing as a Practical Strategy

What Is Your Endgame?

What are some reasons you might enter into a conversation with someone?

Is healing always a possible as a goal in our discourse?

How would healing affect the topics in which you choose to engage or bring up?

What kind of language might you use if your goal is healing?

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

-Matthew 14:16



**HOLDING ONTO
ANGER IS LIKE
DRINKING POISON
AND EXPECTING
THE OTHER
PERSON TO DIE**

-BUDDHA-

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An Agent of Healing

Introduction

The quotes to the right all represent snippets from life and work of King during our country's struggle with civil rights. Much of what King wrote and spoke had to do with how we choose to engage with each other, especially on difficult and emotionally, politically charged subjects.

Review the quotes and then choose one that really stands out to you. If your chosen quote were you life's philosophy, how would it inform your approach to being in conversation with people? How would it inform how you speak to yourself?



“In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.”

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”

“Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

“Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon. which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Notes



Notes

