

February 18, 2018

Proverbs 11:14;19:2;19:20
Matthew 5:43-49

My history of Building Bridges conversation

- election of Donald Trump
- awareness of *the Divide*
- Debby Scheel's challenge: "Would we be holding these conversations, if Hillary Clinton had won?"

Introduced to Jonathan Haidt's The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion

Lays out 5 "moral pillars" (moral: principles of right and wrong in behavior: ETHICAL); Now 6

- list them

Liberals use 2, conservatives use all 5 (6)

I realized I might be limited

True desire to bridge the divide

Started with topic, found scripture

Proverbs offers good advice

But, in the shower, beginning of week, realized what Jesus meant in "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

For years I have said, "You don't have to like someone, but you do have to love them."

I have vilified those who see the world differently from myself, at times unable or unwilling to be in the same room.

Christian? No way

This Lent I want to encourage you to reach out, to stretch yourself, to let your guard down, to open yourself to "the other side"

I want you to meet "the Other", the hated one, the idiot

And look for their humanity by wondering what moral pillar they are using to make the decisions that cause you to have ulcers

This begins with you being clear about your own moral pillars.

My goal is not to change the other's mind, rather to connect to their humanity

Thereby recognizing my own humanity

Looking ahead: exciting possibility to learn about these pillars in and through someone else's personal experiences

- myself, loyalty/betrayal
- Bente Sterrett, sanctity/degradation
- Maryellen Castro, fairness/cheating
- Stephen Zuehlke, care/harm
- youth, authority/subversion

I am excited about this year's Lenten journey.

Excited about who I will meet and how I will grow in understanding and be changed

I pray you are too. Amen.