



UNDER HIS WINGS

SEASON 3

EPISODE 33—LOVE ONE ANOTHER

SHOW NOTE HIGHLIGHTS

In this episode we discuss how we can have meaningful conversations with others even when we disagree on divisive topics and how we can come away from those conversations with a greater appreciation for each other.

“Friends, in our present moment we find all manner of divisions and subdivisions, sets and subsets, digital tribes and political identities, with more than enough hostility to go around.”

He reminded us of that stunning period in the Book of Mormon in which those people lived a higher and holier way: “And it came to pass that there was no contention among all the people, in all the land...because of the **love of God** which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strife,...nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God. There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ‘ites; but they were one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God. “And how blessed were they! For the Lord did bless them in all their doings.” (4 Nephi 1:13-18)

“When the love of God sets the tone for our own lives, for our relationships to each other and ultimately our feeling for all humankind, then old distinctions, limiting labels, and artificial divisions begin to pass away, and peace increases. That is precisely what happened in our Book of Mormon example.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/12holland?lang=eng>

The first great commandment to the human family is to love God wholeheartedly, with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. And once we have learned to do that then we can keep the second great commandment in ways that are not superficial and trivial: To love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30&31)

President Nelson; “We are all connected, and we have a God-given responsibility to help make life better for those around us,” he said. “We don’t have to be alike or look alike to have love for each other. We don’t even have to agree with each other to love each other. If we have any hope of reclaiming the goodwill and sense of humanity for which we yearn, it must begin with each of us, one person at a time.” <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2021/09/overcoming-racism-and-prejudice-we-can-build-bridges?lang=eng>

Not everyone is going to agree with our perceptions, ideas, opinions or beliefs...disagreement from time to time is inevitable...But that doesn’t mean *contention is inevitable*.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2021/09/how-to-disagree-without-being-disagreeable?lang=eng>

President Russell M. Nelson has testified of 3 important principles that can help us make our disagreements more positive experiences. He encouraged us to 1)“show compassionate concern for others,” 2)“bridle the passion to speak ... contentiously for personal gain or glory,” and 3) “truly [love] God.”

1. “Show compassionate concern for others.”

One of the keys to showing compassionate concern for others is recognizing the person’s worth (which is great in the sight of God) and remembering that that individual is our brother or sister.

We can come to see others the way God sees them as we strive to look beyond what we see with our natural eyes and pray for the gift of discernment to see the good in others. This will help us feel compassion for them even in difficult moments and even when we disagree.

Elder Ulisses Soares:

“Learning to listen with love is perhaps the most important thing we can do to be inclusive.” <https://www.ldsliving.com/elder-soares-4-tips-for-loving-those-who-disagree-with-us/s/10147>

2. “Bridle the passion to speak contentiously... for personal gain or glory.”

Proverbs 13:10 teaches that “only by pride cometh contention.” I think when we allow pride and our drive for personal glory to be our motivator in conversations, we will often find more contention. But when we work to manage our pride and look for ways to understand the other person’s perspective first, we will be more likely to have a productive and positive discussion.



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Key questions that can be helpful to ask ourselves as we seek to overcome pride in our conversations:

- Are you being driven by compassion and understanding?
- Are you wanting to cause hurt and stir up angry feelings?
- Are you focused on building a healthy relationship with the other person?
- Are you arguing for the sake of being right?
- Are you having conversations where the Spirit can be present?
- Or does your passion and strong opinions on the subject cause the spirit to withdraw?

3. “Truly [love] God.”

The two great commandments—to love God and to love our neighbor—go hand in hand. When we love God, it leads us to also love our neighbor. (See Matthew 22:37–39; 1 John 4:20.)

A. Avoid using generalized statements and labels.

B. Consider other perspectives.

C. Validate feelings.

Elder Renlund: “Unity requires effort. It develops when we cultivate the love of God in our hearts. We are united by our common, primary identity as children of God and our commitment to the truths of the restored gospel. In turn, our love of God and our discipleship of Jesus Christ generate genuine concern for others. We value the kaleidoscope of others’ characteristics, perspectives, and talents.” <https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/43renlund?lang=eng&abVersion=V00&abName=GLOB88>

Geri references this speech from a pastor: 2 Principles That Are Crucial To Love Your Neighbor As Yourself: <https://youtu.be/kzVnqXbqt6A>