



Conversation Guide - Part II

Questions asked:

How do you make peace when you are misunderstood or carry negative baggage because of labels you can't control?

Quotes that stood:

- "Our posture has been one of listening... that has opened up conversation to happen in a very open and safe environment."

Ideas for you to consider:

- How do you react when others misunderstand you?
- What do you hear from Bryan and Stephanie as important when we have a posture of listening and understanding?

Questions asked:

What unity have you found between Christians and Muslims in making peace?

Quotes that stood:

- "There are so many ways that we collaborate where our theological differences aren't the issue whenever we can collaborate together and pull our resources to expand the kingdom of God in both our understandings of what that means. When we do that together, we are more effective."
- "There is a unity of purpose, but that doesn't mean we agree about everything."
- "We can have nuanced conversations about these differences. We share about, and can critique, different things that we see in each other's thinking because we know that our relationship is really for one another."

Bounded and Centered Set Community

Quotes that stood:

- "If we are in a bounded set, everyone else is scary. If we have a centered set model, we can tolerance difference because it's an opportunity for growth."
- "I see so much conflict between religious communities, and I see how often Christians are more antagonistic to Muslims and just focus on being right and better instead of saying, 'How we we work better to follow God?'"
- "Whenever God is at work amongst people that we don't want to acknowledge, there is this gut reaction to not see it...to have that bubble burst and to realize that God is constantly working out there and to not be afraid of it - that is so freeing."

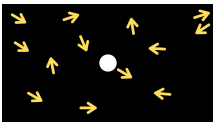
Ideas for you to consider:



- **Bounded Set Communities** are communities that find identity and inclusion around a strongly defined set of value, behaviors, and beliefs. Often energy is spent defending the boundary lines so that our community identity is kept intact.



- **Centered Set Communities** are communities that find identity and inclusion around a common shared center. In the graph below, arrows represent our attention to the center, our nearness to the center, and our alignment with others who are pursuing the center.



- **For more on understanding bounded set and centered set communities:**
 - See Bryan's blog [here](#)
 - Listen to Katy First sermons build on this idea [here](#) - 4/19/20 "Deconstruction and Faith"
- How does thinking about a bounded set and centered set community help you better think about how to engage with people who are different than you?
- Why do we get more defensive when we create stronger boundaries between others?

Some final helpful thoughts:

- **Peace makers as translators**
 - Show up in people's spaces, listen, and be present.
 - Alliehip - be allies with people on all sides. Create relational trust with people and make it known that you are making relationships with other as well.
- **Peace making roles: Education, Mediation, Advocacy, Observation**
 - **Observation:** watching for injustice and naming it
 - **Education:** seeking truth through understanding and history telling
 - **Mediation:** bringing people together
 - **Advocacy:** sharing with your own people from your experience that breaks down misconceptions and barriers to peace.
 - **Narrative Mediation:** empathizing with the narrative of the other side, so that you can bring together opposite sides to weave a new story together.