

Go and Practice: Loving Dialogue

Pastor Serena Rice



O God, Our Creator,

You formed us in the womb and you know every hair on our heads. Please teach us to see the beauty of your creation in ourselves and in each other, and to seek your will in our lives and in our community, knowing that all that we have belongs to you. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

(silence for reflection)

O God, Our Savior,

You came to us as a helpless baby and you hung on a cross to know the depths of our pain. Please teach us to hear your invitation to take up our own crosses as an invitation to new life, and help us to reject the pull of power and self-righteousness, knowing that in your kingdom the first will be last and the last will be first. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

(silence for reflection)

O God, Our Comforter,

You form your church and you empower us to be your body in the world. Please give us ears to hear your will, and teach us to see and honor the unique gifts you have given to each person here, knowing that we are only complete when we are all serving you together. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Dwelling
in the
Word –
Matt.
22:34–40
(CEB)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵ One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶ “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

- *What catches your attention?*
- *What is God inviting you to learn or do?*

Loving Dialogue: Discerning Through Division

- Organic development
- Grounded in common identity
- Naming potential dangers
- Intentional listening & story-sharing
- Community commitments



Foundations for Loving Dialogue

Because we believe...

- that God is our refuge and strength (*Psalms 46:1*);
- that God is faithful to save God's people (*Deuteronomy 7:9*);
- that our faith calls us to trust in a future filled with hope (*Jer. 29:11*);
- that perfect love drives out fear (*1 John 4:18*);
- that we are individually gifted and called together to be the body of Christ (*Rom. 12:4-8*); and
- that we are called to love God and to love one another as ourselves (*Matt. 22:36-40*);



Therefore ...

We commit to approach each other as equals with:

Love, Kindness, Trust, Acceptance, Awareness of our individual complexity;
Tolerance, Patience, Respect, and

We commit to call each other to:

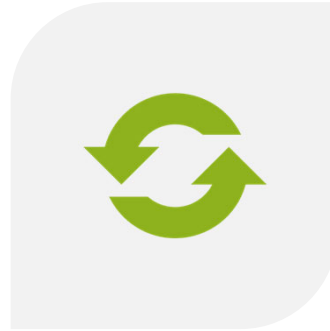
Faith, Accountability, Compromise, Peace, Action, Inclusiveness, REFORMATION;
Careful Listening, Responsibility, Cooperation, Growth, Forgiveness, and

Knowing that we will fail, and trusting in Christ's saving grace to continually renew us and call us to new life.

Go and practice..



WHAT ARE YOUR
STARTING BELIEFS...



HOW CAN YOU COMMIT
TO **APPROACH**
OTHERS...



HOW CAN YOU COMMIT
TO **CALL** OTHERS...

Q&A

Let's
talk...

