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Forbidden Talks

Well, well, can we agree this is a crazy time to be alive!? We are reaching the point where religion and politics can no longer be avoided. Of course, I don't think the founders intended for these things to be so far from our minds and dinner tables. Faith and the Constitution were hemmed together at America's foundation and there's no changing it now.

For years, religion and politics have been scandalous subjects prohibited in the workplace, in schools, and even within some families. Exactly when did society start controlling our thought processes and conversations? Are Americans incapable of listening to those they disagree with? Are we so uncivil the government needs to regulate the most intimate details of our lives?

Here are some fundamental ways to handle conflict.

Avoidance: if there's no solution, there's no problem. **Confrontation:** negative emotions could mean the subject is off limits, try again at another time. **Mediation:** bring in a neutral 3rd party. **Negotiation:** process through to a win-win.

Religion and politics cannot be avoided forever. Americans have taken the easy way out for far too long and we're seeing the consequences unfold. Let's try a new approach to these forbidden topics. We need to start talking again!

Religion & Politics

How can we turn these forbidden subjects into peace talks?

7 Key Points:

1 - Allow others to express a different opinion without arguing (it's okay to be right and keep it to yourself sometimes :D)

2 - Don't *react* but respond to opposing points of view (this is a choice between acting in outrage or respectfully disagreeing)

3 - If you love someone, don't let politics or religion end the relationship

4 - Morality (the existence of an invisible law that determines right and wrong) is an objective truth

5 - Politicians, and some ministers, lack the capacity to care about every individual, thus we do not owe them our allegiance on every issue

6 - If you are uneducated in any subject, don't bluff your way through a conversation (remain teachable and your knowledge base will grow)

7 - A faith-based point of view is valid and reasonable (in fact, it is the only view that accounts for key point #4)