Rude Awakenings: Practicing Civility in Our Congregations

General Assembly
The Unitarian Universalist Association
Providence, Rhode Island
June 26, 2014

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Number of Cars Not Stopping at Springfield Crosswalk

Just Me
Number of Cars Not Stopping at Springfield Crosswalk

Just Me

Me and My Dog
Number of Cars Not Stopping at Springfield Crosswalk

- Just Me: 30
- Me and My Dog: 25
- Me and a Baby: 35
Number of Cars Not Stopping at Springfield Crosswalk

- Just Me
- Me and My Dog
- Me and a Baby
- The Baby in the Middle of the Street
NO CUTTING
IN LINE!!
NO CUTTING
IN LINE
“...it is possibly responsible for more pain than any other mortal failing.”
Americans encounter incivility an average of 17.1 times a week or 2.4 times a day

- 50% have ended a friendship because another person was uncivil
- 43% expect to experience incivility in the next 24 hours
- 37% have experienced incivility at work and 26% have quit a job because the workplace was uncivil
- 24% have personally experienced cyberbullying (three times as much since 2011) and 43% say they worry a great deal about cyberbullying.
- 19% of parents have transferred their child to a different school because of incivility in the current educational placement
• 95% believe we have a civility problem in America

• 81% think uncivil behavior is leading to an increase in violence

• 70% think the internet encourages uncivil behavior and 34% specifically blame Twitter

• 70% think that incivility has risen to crisis levels
“...a lack of common feeling between people, the notion that life is a competitive struggle”. "...not knowing each other, we seem to think that how we treat each other doesn’t matter.”
"Twenge does a huge, decidedly un-GenX amount of research and replaces [hunches] with actual data... Lucid and entertaining... bold... refreshing."
—Chris Colin, author of What Really Happened to the Class of '93

Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before

Jean M. Twenge, PhD.
Hey, it's good to see you again!

You did a great job!

Good morning and welcome.

How are you feeling today?
“...the bands of association and mutual commitment...between people who are not joined by ties of family or intimate association.”
“...the most extreme form of non-deference is to be treated as actually absent or invisible.”
John Fletcher Moulton
1884-1921
The Domain of Law – “Where our actions are prescribed by laws binding upon us which must be obeyed.”

The Domain of Obedience to the Unenforceable – “in which our actions are not determined by law but in which we are not free to behave in any way we choose.”

The Domain of Free Choice – “which includes all those actions as to which we claim and enjoy complete freedom.”
“...that area of our lives of faith in which we submit to certain ways of living because we hold membership in a faith community that rests on beliefs and values that prescribe such behaviors.”

Gil Rendle
DO THE RIGHT THING!
We Can Do It!
WAVE FIRST
“...I felt my heart open to the world. To nurture a generous spirit in ourselves, and to birth generosity and joy into the world, all we have to do is wave first.”
“Society has always seemed to demand a little more from human beings than it will get in practice.”

PRACTICE ACCOUNTABILITY
PAY ATTENTION
PRAISE AND APPRECIATE
(LET THEM EAT GRAPES)
Capuchin Monkeys Reject Unequal Pay

- http://youtu.be/meiU6TxysCg
Thank You!
EXCEED EXPECTATIONS
WAVE FIRST
PAY ATTENTION
EXCEED EXPECTATIONS
PRACTICE ACCOUNTABILITY
PRAISE AND APPRECIATE
\[
\frac{M_1}{M_2} = e^{V/I}
\]

\[
V = I \cdot \ln \left( \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right)
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Sources

- *Talk to the Hand*, Lynne Truss
- *A Short History of Rudeness*, Mark Caldwell
- *Choosing Civility*, P. M. Forni
- *The Civility Solution*, P. M. Forni
- *Civility in America, 2013*, Weber Shandwick, Powell Tate, KRC Research

“We never touch people so lightly that we do not leave a trace.”

Peggy Tabor Millin