

LEYM Query for 2018

How might we support each other as we find peaceful and persistent responses to actions that exclude and judge?

In what ways do we, as Quakers, hold ourselves and the Other in the Light when our disagreements seem insurmountable?

How do we find common ground as we listen to those with whom we disagree?

Supporting Quotes

“(God) plucks the world out of our hearts (and) hurls the world into our hearts where we and He together carry it in infinitely tender love.” Thomas Kelly, *A Testament of Devotion*

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” Matthew 5:43-44

“Respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern. Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it. When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others.” London Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*

“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Matthew 13:43b, KJV

“So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: ‘The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, ‘Go to this people and say,

You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears hard of hearing.

And they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn
—and I would heal them.”

Apostle Paul, preaching to the Jews in Rome. Acts 28:25-27, NRSV

“First: It is not true, though we would like it to be, that our side is all white and the other all black. Second: Every individual has the potential for good and for evil. Third: We only strengthen on his fateful way the person who uses his power for evil when we meet him with a constraint born of our anxiety, contempt or bitterness.”

Margarethe Lachmund, page 10, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #228: *With Thine Adversary in the Way*

“Opportunities to find deeper powers with ourselves come when life seems most challenging.”

Joseph Campbell

“Every truly great accomplishment is at first impossible” Chinese Proverb

To listen is “without presupposing, classifying, improving, controverting, evaluating, approving or disapproving, without dueling what is being said, without rehearsing the rebuttal in advance, without free-associating to portions of what is being said so that succeeding portions are not heard at all” Abraham Maslow’s definition of listening

“The work of the world does not wait to be done by perfect people.” Author unknown