

Conversational Tip of the Day



Listen First

When engaged in a conversation, listen first. If you aren't sure you understood the point the person was making, in a kind voice, ask them to clarify. This is important because you don't want to respond to something they didn't intend to say.

Before you disagree with what they have said, acknowledge the things you agreed with first, so they know you aren't rejecting all of what they say.

Also make sure that the other person knows you aren't against *them*, but what they have *said*. Address the issue without attacking the person. We all have a right to our opinions, and should not fear being rejected for having differing thoughts.

Then calmly share the points with which you don't agree. Try to do it without insisting you are right and they are wrong. "I'm not sure I agree with something you said," or "Would you like to hear my point of view on the topic?" These questions can ease tension.

Our culture right now is very toxic. Do what you can to spread love and patience. Avoid gagging others and putting them into a box. Keep the dialog open. Remember the person to whom you are speaking is a human being, perhaps even a friend.

Friendship is more important than proving your point.

Let it go. Begin to talk about things that you know will be non-controversial. It really is "ok to agree to disagree," then move on. Don't resort to insults to prove your point.

James 1:19-20

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.