



ACTS







The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The text 'Trade-In Society' is centered in the middle of the slide.

Trade-In Society

It seems that we are becoming habituated to making the nuclear option the first option, or very close to the first option, when we can. Trying to come to terms with a difficult person, or a difficult situation, is an endeavor fraught with uncertainty: it might work, but it might not, and even if it does work, I could end up paying a big emotional price. Why not just bail out and start over? It seems to me that if there's one thing that our current version of advertising-based capitalism teaches us all it's that everything is replaceable: everything can be reproduced, or traded in for a new and improved model. And that applies to coaches, to churches, to spouses. We live in a trade-in society.

Alan Jacobs

The background is a faded aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The word "CONTEXT" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

CONTEXT

The single greatest challenge for disciples of Jesus is to imagine and enact a together life that flows inside the subtleties and intricacies of peoples' differences, of such things as language, story, land, and animals. It has been easier to imagine either loss or resistance - loss of difference through assimilation or its control through conquest, or resistance to its loss through active segregation. How can peoples be joined together, truly joined together without loss, without death of one (people's ways) for the sake of the other. This question's strength lay in our centuries-long inability to answer it. Willie Jennings

The background of the slide is a faded, light teal aerial photograph of a city street grid. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image, framing the central text.

HOW TO DISAGREE



Pressing In

The background is a semi-transparent aerial map of a city, showing a grid of streets and various buildings. There are several irregular orange-colored areas scattered across the map, possibly representing specific zones or data points. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and greens from the map, overlaid on a light greenish-grey background.

Receptivity

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The word "Confrontation" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Confrontation

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. Centered in the middle of the teal area is the text "Learning Conversation" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Learning Conversation

Learning Conversation:

- Slowing

Trust Repair Template

Behaviors the other person is doing that are causing problems			
FACTS (what the other person has done)	PERCEPTION (impact on me or others)	INTENTION (what the other person was trying to achieve - guess if you don't know)	ALTERNATIVE (what you request of the other person)

Learning Conversation:

- Slowing
- Speaking

Learning Conversation:

- Slowing
- Speaking
- Listening

The first service one owes to others in community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives us God's Word, but also lends us God's ear. We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them. So often, Christians, especially preachers, think that their only service is always to have to 'offer' something when they are together with other people. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking.

Many people seek a sympathetic ear and do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking even when they should be listening. But Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either; they will always be talking even in the presence of God. The death of the spiritual life starts here....Those who cannot listen along patiently will always be talking past others, and finally no longer will even notice it. Those who think their time is too precious to spend listening will never really have time for God and others, but only for themselves and for their own words and plans...We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. Centered in the middle of the teal area is the text "Listening vs. Message Delivery" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Listening vs. Message Delivery

The background of the slide is a faded aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The word "Arbitration" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Arbitration

An aerial photograph of a city grid is visible in the background, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text is white and positioned in the upper left corner.

Arbitration:

- Scripture

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about Me. And you are not willing to come to Me so that you may have life.

John 5:39-40

James' Arbitration:

- Scripture
- Experience

James' Arbitration:

- Scripture
- Experience
- God's Power & Purposes



Clear Commitments & Accountability

The background of the image is a faded, aerial-style map of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text is centered horizontally and vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the text, framing it.

Not every disagreement ends in unity

The background is an aerial photograph of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The word "INVITATIONS" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

INVITATIONS

The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial map of a city grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the frame. Centered in the middle of the teal area is the text "Prayerful Reflection" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Prayerful Reflection

Questions for Reflection:

- How did my family of origin handle disagreement? Cultural identity?
- What patterns or triggers make we want to avoid or explode?
- Do I have any unresolved disagreements that need attention? Am I working the process? If there is no possibility right now of unity am I prayerful and hopeful for one in the future?

The background of the slide is a faded, light teal aerial photograph of a city grid. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image, framing the central text.

Unity in a Divided World