

Bridging the Gap
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Let's say there's a bridge and it's broken and battered, you wish for a bridge that is stable and safe to cross. Would you continue to damage the bridge, repair or start anew? Let's use this logic for life. If you were having a conversation with someone to understand their perspective, would you become violent when upset or continue to be open minded and understanding?

Martin Luther King Jr. chose the latter. He was able to make real change in society by being understanding and advocating with respect and love. When he spoke he did so with intention, when he walked he did so with purpose and when he loved he loved all.

Martin Luther King Jr. saw that we had a broken system and the only way to fix it was with community and humanity. People are separated because they refuse to listen to each other. Oftentimes when having a serious conversation we listen to respond not to understand. This causes a severe divide in our society, we simply can not continue to hate and disagree on something we aren't educated about. If you want a better bridge for everyone, you need to lay the wood down together.

It's clear we are stuck in an echo chamber. The media oftentimes only presents information we want to hear. This makes bridging the gap more difficult as you are not often presented with other view points, leaving no time to deepen your knowledge. In scenarios like this, we need to look to real people in our communities. It's important we don't run from hard conversations but listen and learn. Instead of choosing to stay in the echo chamber, choose to ask questions like "why do you think that?" or "what makes you feel that way?" These questions are small steps to a more connected community and stable bridge.

There's no such thing as a perfect community. But we can work towards a more connected community by strengthening our bridges. Loving someone regardless of their views is crucial to the process. To continue Martin Luther King Jr's principles we must not give in to the societal pressure towards violence. Our bridge can only be fixed if everyone works together.