

Our conversation tonight was on Being Right. We found that naming this as our theme last month raised up our awareness of how much our need *to be right* is at the root of conflict in our daily lives. We shared personal and honest reflections with each other and felt, once again, the compassionate love and fellowship in this circle.

There are dozens of moments on a daily basis when we are expected to have -- and be ready to defend -- *the answer*. It is a real challenge to be as knowledgeable and prepared as we can be and yet, at the same time, be open to learning new things and admit we don't -- can't -- know everything. Most professions and organizational structures have little to no room or support for individuals to say, "I'm not sure" or "I don't honestly know what the answer is." Admitting this to ourselves and others can leave us feeling vulnerable. It does require a detachment from our egos and trust in those around us -- and in the Divine. How can we more frequently hold off making judgments or decisions until we've heard more points of view, secure in the knowledge that we don't have to know it all?

Even when we know we are right, our hearts know that anger and sarcasm rarely changes anyone's mind. We all have a deep need to be heard and respected. Sometimes it is only when the other feels heard that they can be opened to hearing us. When someone is expressing anger or frustration at us, remembering that there is that of God in everyone can help us hear the essence of their truth in the midst of the emotions and words.

Holding tightly to where we want the outcome to go doesn't leave a lot of openness for the Spirit. Friends' Meeting for Business requires that we come prepared (by learning and praying) to both consider items on the agenda as well *to be moved*. We are inspired by Parker Palmer's writings on the importance of being willing to remain in a place of tension until truth or right action emerges -- in all of life. One Friend shared a poem about how the shortest prayer is *please*. If we truly want God's help, we have to honestly admit it, and let go.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 7pm in the Community House. Our topic will be "How can we keep our hearts and our surroundings open and ready to grow?"