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SPEAKERS

Edroy Odem, Scot McKay, Corey Nathan



Scot McKay 00:01

Alright guys, how about the first brand new strategy for approaching women starting conversations with them and attracting them that you've seen in years? It's my new audio program called a yes. And which leverages the principles of improv comedy to basically guarantee you have something to talk about with women, and you have the confidence to approach them and start that conversation. Things have changed out there, guys, you can't go around neg hitting women and using 2005 pickup tactics anymore. The world is more divided than ever, people expect discord rather than rapport. And you as a man have a golden opportunity to step up and lead and give women the kind of conversation they're starving for. And therefore be the one man out of the faceless herd who steps up speaks up gets her number and gets the girl it's called a yes and and it's my brand new program. And it's only going to cost you about the price of lunch. Go to mountaintop podcast.com front slash yes and and get your copy. It's brand new, and it will absolutely revolutionize your ability to get out there and meet women in the real world again, go to The Mountain Top podcast.com front slash yes and and be one of the first men in the world to put this brand new strategy into action.



Edroy Odem 01:31


From the mist-enshrouded mountain top fortress that is x&y Communications Headquarters. You're listening to the world-famous Mountain Top Podcast. And now here's your host, Scot McKay.



Scot McKay 01:44

Oh, how's it going? Gentlemen, welcome to yet again another episode of the world-famous Mountain Top Podcast. I am Scot McKay, your host your tour guide on the show, if you will. And you can find me on just about every social media platform at Scot McKay including X including YouTube, etc. The only place you'll find me at real Scot McKay is on Instagram and I guess threads as well if you actually use such things like threads. With me today is a new friend of mine. He's a good dude. And he is from sunny Southern California. And he is also a podcaster


like I am and his main show is talking politics and religion without killing each other. So today, having found out about Corey Nathan's work, we're going to talk about how to handle hot potato conversations, not only across the dinner table during the holidays, which we are in the throes of as we're recording this, but especially when meeting, interacting with and even dating and relating to women because I know that's why most of you guys are here. So without anything further, Cory Nathan. Welcome, man.

 Corey Nathan 02:56

Thanks so much for having me, Scott. This is this is a real thrill to be on your on your program. Yeah,

 Scot McKay 03:01


man. Well, it's a thrill to have you here too. I love guys who come on the show and aren't afraid to well wrestle with these hot potato topics. And I mean, your whole gig is on this. I mean, how's that going, man who's trying to cancel you? Who loves you? Is it split down the middle? What's life like for you as the host of a popular podcast? That well goes there for lack of a better word. Yeah,

 Corey Nathan 03:25

we go there and you know, something, it's the topics that we tackle. If somebody's not hating on you, you're just not trying hard enough. Agree. You know, you just can't please all the people all the time and no matter how we try so actually So speaking of differences, Scot I have a difference right off the bat with you know, if you said the name of my program is talking politics and religion without killing each other. It's talking man, it's talking without the G is talking with an apostrophe instead of a GZ. Get it like because I'm originally I live in Southern California now, but I'm originally from Jersey so St. Like a Jersey boy talking politics and religion without killing each other.

 Scot McKay 04:02

Alright, man. Well, I'm from Ballmer, so I probably pronounced the CI not like the Long Island guys do. Yeah, you know, I was talking to someone the other day and a song was playing in the background. If you go back to Public Enemy, they had a song in the 80s called can't trust it to u r. U S. S, right? And Flavor Flav? Or I guess in keeping with the tone of this conversation, Flavor Flav depending on which Google result you follow, right? pronounces the T throughout the entire rap, man. Oh, it was can't trust it like that. And it just doesn't make any sense. I mean, name the title of the song The way you're going to speak the words of the song, right?

 Corey Nathan 04:41

Yeah, yeah, gotta be true to it. You know, just, it's not you can't be too formal about it. You got to just kind of take the guard down, right, right out of the gate. You know, I didn't put too much thought into it. I just said, I just said, you know, we were talking about different ways to name

thought into it. I just said, I just said, you know, we were talking about different ways to name the program when we were first starting. It's a little long, you know, but it just says exactly what we're all about. And it says it in a way that we kind of do it in an informal just like everyday speech kind of way. So, yeah, yeah, just being true to who we are. Well, you



Scot McKay 05:09

know, Cory, first of all, you said, You're from Southern California. And then you said something about being a Jersey boy. So you're one of those guys who moved out west to seek his fortune at some point. I



Corey Nathan 05:17

did. I did. Yeah. I moved out here in 1995. You know, I've been I've lived in other parts of the country. But I remember coming out here as a young man, early to mid 20s, coming over that hill, because we drove out here, I picked off my she's my girlfriend at the time. She's my wife now. And coming over the hill dropping into the LA basin thinking, Man, I could take this town. You know, the beautiful pride, arrogance. Little did I know, man, this town could rip you up and tear you apart and, you know, build you back up and tear you apart all over again. So we've been through it all. Well, California is



Scot McKay 05:57

wonderful. I grew up BMXing and skateboarding and surfing. So Southern California was like Mecca for a kid like me. And first time I visited, I felt like I was at home. I wanted to be there. Nowadays, it's much nicer a place to visit than live for.



Corey Nathan 06:14

You know, it feels like the weather has actually changed since I first got out here. Maybe it's because of the particular town I live in is technically high desert. So we have what town Do you live in? It's Santa Clarita, so it's like three miles north of LA. Yeah. Santa Clarita is where Magic Mountain is? That's right. Yeah, exactly. So we literally have, you know, we can have 100 days a year, that's over 100 degrees, and many days that are actually over 110. It does get pretty hot. It just I don't remember it being that hot in the 90s. Maybe it's just in my imagination. I don't know.



Scot McKay 06:44

Well, that's another hot potato political argument you can have at the Christmas dinner table, right? There you go. How did you decide to get in on this particular topic? Did you find it it affected your life a lot enough that you were passionate about it? Or you were just kind of trying to fill a gap or nobody else was really well going there? Or what happened there?



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Corey Nathan 07:07

Yeah, I mean, it's pretty observant way to ask that question. Because it's a little bit of both. I, it's something that I felt compelled to learn how to do better, quick background, not to get too deep into it. But I grew up in an observant Jewish family went to an orthodox synagogue. But in my late 20s, I became a Christian. So as you can imagine, I had to have really hard, challenging, fraught conversations with my family about religion. But then as a new Christian already, you know, young adult, in my late 20s, early 30s, I was going to church and I realized a lot of people I was going to church with, especially here in Santa Clarita. It's there's Master's University, which is run by John MacArthur, who's fundamentalist, conservative, very beyond conservative in his theology. But I realized that a lot of things that they're find the people I was going to church with their priorities wasn't so much about the theology that compelled me to make that transition. But it was political and social issues that took primary priority over the theological convictions that we were reading about in Scripture. So I had to have very challenging hard conversations about politics, or social issues, especially when it came at odds with what we were reading in Scripture with my friends from church. So these two things, I just realized, this is the kind of thing that we we need to talk about it because it's the way that we live among each other. It's the way that we figure out how to do this life thing together. And yet, it's the two things above all else, maybe race included in there that everybody says, Oh, don't talk about politics and religion. Well, why not? That's the most important stuff, you know, and I found that I wasn't doing it well, again, and again and again. So figuring let's do this, let's, let's figure out how to do this better. Let's figure out how to talk to our relatives who we love and talk about everything else. We can't talk about this, our neighbors who we can have a barbecue with. But somehow something like this, you know, the next election comes up, and now all of a sudden, we want to kill each other. So I just figured, man, let me figure out how to do this better. So I started inviting people on this program, who I felt are doing something about it, who I felt are exhibiting and modeling the right kind of more nuanced thinking, being better humans in the realm of politics and religion, bringing them on my show and ask him the question of, hey, how do we do it? And then talking about all the topics that we should talk about. So, you know, practicing talking about politics and religion, but that's probably a longer answer to your question than you were planning, but that's how it all came about.

**Scot McKay 09:43**

Well, no, that's fine. I love hearing the story and how you put it all together because this topic du jour is something we talk about reasonably often on this show because most of the men listening to this show Cory are poor polymaths to some degree, they believe in the power of being a renaissance man. As a matter of fact, I just did an entire masterclass on that topic for guys, because it helps when approaching and meeting women to actually have something to talk about that the woman wants to talk about. Not just defaulting to your own thing all the time. Right. And yet, in this culture in this Western culture, in particular, I think we do default to our own thing all the time. And often that thing is whatever Well, career we fell into. You know, with all respect to people in the insurance industry out there. I'm not sure many children write a first grade paper called what I want to be when I grow up and right insurance agent. Yeah. Yeah. I've been to parties where the guy only wants to talk about insurance with me. Not necessarily even because he wants to sell it to me, but because that's what he knows. Yeah, right. Yeah. And women are not going to be excited and have a whole lot of fun talking to a guy who at best can talk about what he knows if he gathers the stones to go up and talk to her anyway. Yeah, yeah. You know, before we hit record, on this particular episode, you and I were talking about the nature of how politics has become religion in this country. And you brought up

an interesting point, that was an angle on it, that I hadn't really considered too deeply until right when we were talking about it right there. The idea of politics becoming the religion in this country, and therefore it becoming literally a religious argument about who you're voting for, right? Yeah, to me has always been about secular humanism, and the general well secularization of this country and the movement away from Judeo Christian values. And one of the things you and I were talking about, is going back to Billy Graham, and certainly when say pat robertson ran for president in the 80s, Evan Jelicke, Christianity in this country has been courting politicians, to the point of teaming up with them mostly in the Republican realm for years and years and years now. So I don't know why it's so surprising that religious folks have become more political, even as they're still in the church. And speaking from the pulpit, as preachers. Yeah, that's really crazy. And, you know, then why are we so surprised that people are so religiously tied to their politics nowadays? talk to these guys a little bit more, Cory, about that journey, and how we got here to where everything we talk about is gotta be political, and is only going to divide us? How did we get here? And why do we like, apparently, at least, like arguing with each other so much to the point of a vision? Well,

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Corey Nathan 12:53

it's a natural inclination. I mean, I happen to be, you know, Jewish, and then became a Christian. So, you know, I've read through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation a bunch of times. So, you know, even if you're not religious, and you just read that as sort of ancient literature, it's telling stories that are not new stories, and it tells the stories of human beings sort of taking things into their own hands, and trying to be God and write their own history. And we are still doing that, you know, in terms of Christianity, it was just a sect of Judaism, until, you know, until the time of Constantine, when Constantine made it a state religion. And certain Christians embrace that, because they were, you know, up until that point, they risk the possibility of being torn apart by the Lions for sport, you know, so it's a natural inclination to want to be in the position of Caesar rather than in the position of being lion food. And that's often how we feel, whether it's imagined or not, that's often how we feel. So the idea of imposing our will and then undergirding it with religious language, that's a temptation. So we always have to check ourselves, what do we believe? What is virtuous? What is truly good, you know, and then now, if you're trying to justify that which we know isn't that good, because it's the ends to the means. It's not just a slippery slope. It's, it's a it's a form of idolatry itself. So you talk about just recent history in the United States, Billy Graham actually recognized this. He actually backed away from wanting to impose his will, through the language of his beliefs and his theology on politicians. He became nonpartisan. He was in the Oval Office, whether it was a Republican or a Democrat, but as soon as soon as he was doing that, guys, like Jerry Falwell senior coming onto the scene, and realizing there's a gap here, and we can fill that void. Jerry Falwell, you know, laid the groundwork for somebody like pat robertson later on. That's true. And then many, many others who've picked up From that, and there are offshoots of that it's not just in politics, it's in media. It is in the halls of Congress. Just ask you said Art imitates life. And he said, I'm seeing where we're getting to the point where life is imitating art. And he said, I see where this is going, where life is going to begin to derive its very meaning of existence from the arts. And that's definitely the case where we're looking at our preferred media outlets, our preferred media, personalities, and we're deriving our very meaning of existence, from our favorite media personalities are media outlets. But at the end of the day, we're still human, we still think we still feel we still have our bodies and our sense of the transcendent. You know, in the Bible, it says, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Those are four different pillars of who we are uniquely as human beings. And we can manifest all of that and act through that and think about what's good, think about what's right, and be

checking ourselves. Because at the end of the day, the one thing I believe more than anything else, is it's not even that there is a God, because I do believe that there is a God, but even more so than I believe that there is God, I truly know that I know that I know that I am God. So if that's my most irreducible belief, that means that I'm not perfect. I'm not the designer of the universe. I don't I'm not the the the author of all that as good. So I always have to check myself and make sure what am I getting wrong? What do I think I have, right? But I'm kind of maybe off off the script here. So



Scot McKay 16:38

yeah, well, that's okay. Hey, listen, again, it's perfectly valid for you to talk about who you are, and your journey here and how it applies to your message to the world. Because in this particular case, it's particularly integral, right? I know what I mean, you're not some guy teaching auto mechanics, or whatever. Politics and religion are deeply, deeply personal issues. Right. And you mentioned race, which is another hot potato, so is that of course, you're a deeply personal. So it makes perfect sense that the deeper your personal journey, the deeper your understanding of the need to interact with other people, effectively, about what makes us who we are. Now, let's move back about five minutes ago, when you were talking about the role that media has played in this. And the idea of art imitating life and now life imitating art now, if we're going to put art in air quotes, and equate that with media and social media, and people out there who are essentially portraying journalists and thought leaders on TV, but they're really just entertainers and you get those on both sides of the political aisle. Tucker Carlson for sure. As a political entertainer, probably the grandfather of all political entertainers was Rush Limbaugh rush Yeah, Rush Limbaugh, who admitted it. Even going back before that you could cite William F. Buckley Jr. who, every time he talked about politics, which was quite often was pretty much a droll deadpan comedy show. Mid Atlantic accent back in Yeah,



Corey Nathan 18:18

yeah, I'm a big I'm a big Buckley fan. I take a little bit of issue with that. I think that it was a little different with with Bill Buckley, because he, he used media as a tool as as a medium, if you will, and the different mediums in which he appeared as a way to engage other interlocutors or audiences, to provoke thought to enter ideas into the public space, whereas others, getting the media getting the appearance itself is the end in itself. Okay.



Scot McKay 18:56

Well, hold on. I agree with you. 1,000% is basically talking about the people who laid the groundwork for the D evolution to the mayhem we see today. Yeah, so I think even Rush Limbaugh would cite Bill Buckley as an influence. That's basically all I'm saying. But yeah, as far as the guys who openly admitted I'm providing entertainment here, I don't want to run for president I don't want to be a politician. Rush Limbaugh is basically the guy who put that whole thought process on the map. No doubt about it. Okay. But the fact remains, you have people watching Sean Hannity people watching Rachel Maddow, you have people listening and watching to Tucker Carlson on x and thinking they're watching news and you know, I'm gonna get mail because of this. You know, this Fox News tells the truth, MSNBC is telling the truth. These other people should be banned from the airwaves, listen, timeout. You need to watch

both MSNBC and Fox News. You need to watch CNN also then you need to hold To all those notes up to the lights, and see what holds up, because that's where the real news is, I don't even consider it news unless both CNN and Fox News are covering it. That's when you know, something really happened in this world. Then from there, you got to read both sides. Consider it all editorial, by the way, in a world where op ed pieces are headlines on both Fox News and cnn.com, right? And figure out what's going on. And here's the thing, okay, Cory, people are indeed establishing their worldview based on the people they watch the most on TV. If you hear a message time and time and time again, it starts feeling like truth to you, right? That's an established psychological principle. So when we're putting more eggs in the political basket, spending more time watching politics, and we are on our knees praying or talking to God, or even seeking out God, and trying to figure out, you know, all the pieces to this puzzle if we happen to be agnostic, right. That's what our belief system is gonna reflect. And then comes all of this inundation with media. They figured it out, they figured it out. There's so much content out there that people really are just going to scan the headlines without really looking into the meat and potatoes of what's actually being written in the article itself. And they're going to draw conclusions from headlines from clickbait. And you have people who believe what they've been told in 256 character increments on AX, right? And then the cognitive dissonance gets to the point where if their thought process is challenged, effectively, they're still going to cling to it. And why will they still cling to it? Because they have literally millions of other people who agree with them. So you have in the United States, Republicans and Democrats both saying, hey, 80 million people can't be wrong. You know, here's what I like to say, 8 billion people can't be wrong, whatever we're all sharing, as humans living in the human condition. A that's the truth. Okay. But insofar as opinions, I mean, certainly 80 million people can have an opinion different than someone else. And you know what, maybe someone isn't right and the other person wrong. Maybe they're just seeing it from a different perspective. But God forbid that happen in today's society, right? Yeah,

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Corey Nathan 22:22

yeah. And I'll take it a step further. You know, if I feel a certain way about one particular issue, take guns, for example. Yeah, the truth is guns, guns is not one of my primary issues that I get engaged in, frankly, because I don't know as much about it. But if I say I, dear friend of mine, who knows, he's like an expert level, third degree black belt, if you will, when it comes to not just guns themselves, but the history of gun legislation in particular in California. So I might say, you know, I'd be inclined to to create something like a driver's license. But for gun owners, if I say even that, just like philosophically, and he knows, I'm the first one to say I don't, this is not a subject I know about. I care about it, but like it's not something I care about or know about as much as a scripture or electoral politics and things like that. But if I say something like that, there's a tendency on the part of a lot of us to hear that one thing that we're hinting at one thing to do with money Guzman calls chaining, we make all it's like dominoes to fall Oh, well, he's, you know, he's one of them. He wants to come and take all my guns away. He's going to have you know, black shirt guys come and knock on my door and take my guns Second Amendment, like, oh, yeah, real, real it in their sport? No, I just said, I don't know, maybe having like a driver's license for guns, I don't know. But you know, being kind of humble about it, like, it's not an issue I thought about not an issue I care about. So really, in your like, I'm like, woke whatever, you know, blah, blah, blah. So a lot of what you're talking about makes a ton of sense. So one thing that I gather from listening to your show is that it requires a little bit higher than average IQ to really engage in the kinds of conversations that you're having. And the level of people, you know, present company excluded, the level of of impressive folks that you've had on the show. So it takes a little bit of a higher level IQ to be an audience

member just to listen to this content. So that being said, I would take the consumption of news and media a step further, where it's not just if you're watching Fox News, watch MSNBC, I would say if you have a higher than average IQ, be discerning about who you're watching who you're reading. For example, I'm a big fan of Robert Kosta Robert Kosta happens to write primarily for The Washington Post. That's another one of those Cheney issues. If I say Washington Post, there's a lot of my friends, especially the guys that go to church with who were like, Oh, you're watching posts, you must be some commie. And you know, like, whatever. I'm like, no, no, have you read Robert Kosta? Or on Fox News? I was a big fan of The show's Steigerwald Chris Dowell was producing. He's a good news man, regardless of whether you're liberal progressive is somewhere in between Starwalker is a sudden his post Fox News work, you can tell this is a guy who's a great thinker, and he was excellent as a news producer, or a Brett bear is still on there. Chris Wallace, I watched him religiously every Sunday, or on MSNBC. It's not about MSNBC, I happen to be a big fan of Ari Melber. There's a couple of commentators that I really enjoy, especially guys who lean right, that show up in primarily left leaning spaces, I happen to be drawn to folks like that, that can hold their own, intellectually and ethically in places where they're in the minority, and still be able to engage in those conversations, like on the Sunday shows, on Meet the Press, a woman like Danny plucked, Danielle Pletka with AI, very, very conservative in her views, and yet, she was able to have engaging, edifying, informative and fun conversations with three other people around the table, all of whom, to the left of her conservative views. So all that to say, I think it's wise to be discerning in your consumption of content, whether it's news, commentary, or otherwise.



Scot McKay 26:13

Yeah, you know, what you're saying is painfully true. If your opponent in the media, or God forbid, an actual politician, and you fail to carry the party line, every once in a while you're called a rhino or a dyno, or people throw shade at you. And really, those are the people who are thinking the most. Those are the people who are actually considering what's going on with people in this country, and maybe worldwide, and trying to come up with a real solution. Because as long as we're so radically bipartisan, we're not going to come to agreement on much of anything. And that's why you see a lot of the deadlocks, certainly in the United States Congress, but I know it probably is even worse in the UK, based on watching Piers Morgan and some of the other people who I consume and indeed all over the world, it's kind of, well, it's kind of like the new pandemic, isn't it? Yeah, it has COVID. And now, it's people being divided, because they're spending too much time with a computer, whatever country they're in, you see this in Brazil and Turkey and Hungary. Argentina just voted in their quote, unquote, own Donald Trump, and everybody's up in arms, you know, it really becomes politics all over the world, it becomes dividing people all over the world. And meanwhile, here comes the segue. We don't end up talking to anybody out there in the real world anymore. Which brings us to the conversation about approaching women meeting women talking to them face to face. How does a guy avoid lapsing into politics and religion and perhaps even race on first dates? And if she brings it up, she goes there? How can we still have a level headed discussion about whether we're actually compatible? And should go on a second date? Or maybe even start a relationship together? Or not? What are some pointers you have for guys there? It's, we're opening up a whole can of worms. So we do around here, my man?



Corey Nathan 28:17

Yeah. So I have a couple of thoughts about that. One is our tendency in any conversation, not

just on conversations that have potential of being romantic relationships, but all kinds of conversations, to wait for the moment and the blank air to be able to inject our opinions, like to be thinking of what we want to say, and then fill that air and get out what we want to say. That is kinda like it's an impulse that we indulge, doesn't help anybody except that makes you feel relieved. But I think if you really want to connect with someone, a good tool, is to have the disposition of, I'll just call it, I never thought of it that way. Leave room for the possibility that what you're talking about with the person will lead you to a moment where you say, hmm, I never thought of it that way. Now, that's the goal. That's the objective, right? How do you get there is by practicing radical curiosity, instead of indulging your impulse to blurt out your your opinions as if your opinions are going to change. You know, everything once somebody hears it. Oh, they're gonna say I never thought of it that way. Now, I better agree with everything you say. Because you clearly have everything right. I know, to rein those impulses in those baser impulses in and to practice radical curiosity and refining good questions. So let's say somebody says something that you kind of intuitively find disagree Trouble, you can engage in its sort of transactional contentious debate with them. Or you can ask a really good question. Such as Hmm, how did you arrive at that position? That's a really interesting position. You could even maybe say, I don't necessarily agree, but I don't know enough about it yet. So how did you arrive at their position? What happened? You know, tell me about your life? How did you What what's happened in your life for you to get to that place? You know? And then what if you ask a question like that, what it does is, at the end of the day, we're really storytelling creatures, you know, so it allows the person instead of trying to what you were talking about before Scott is basically regurgitate, you know, three to six bullet points that they memorized from their favorite talking head, instead of like doing that in order to like win some sort of imaginary debate that nobody cares about, what you do is you open the person up to their own story, to being able to share their own story. And thus, you're able to connect on a much deeper, more human level. What that does, is, instead of it being transactional, and contentious, it's relational. And it's connected this right. So that's, um, I should think a lot more about that. But in terms of your question, I would say, the disposition of leaving the possibility of saying, huh, I never thought of it that way. So that's the objective that you can get there with the person you're talking to, by the way you do that the action plan by doing that is to maintain the posture of radical curiosity, ask really good questions, so that you bring people out of themselves in a relational way.



Scot McKay 31:42

Yeah, you know, I tell you what, I think you hit the nail on the head. Sounds like you've thought about it quite a bit. Even if you say you haven't. It's really frustrating to be in a conversation and say something, even if you thought it was sort of innocuous and have them jump in disagree, and state their position on it. I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say, to me, that's a sign of a lack of social skill, if not a flat out lack of intelligence. Because the key word in everything you just said, was curiosity. So few people are curious nowadays, because they're afraid it's going to rain on their parade, they're afraid it's going to be a threat to them to find out something new, rather than finding out something that makes them smarter, makes them more knowledgeable, makes them more of a renaissance man, like I talked about, which I'm on a soapbox with nowadays, because it's just so powerful to be a polymath about everything. You can be know as much as you can about everything, even though you can't know everything. So the more you learn, you know, the more you realize less, you know, of course, yeah, still, it's all incremental. You know, you talked about some of the phrasing you can use in context of what we're talking about here. One of my favorites is simply to say, hey, you know what, tell me more. As I say that, I am going to give a thumbs up to the idea of saying, Tell me how you

arrived at that conclusion or that opinion, also, because I think that's very telling. That's almost like a little Jedi mind trick, where you're secretly finding out whether they're, they're a sheeple, or whether they come to their own conclusions. Because if they do just barf out talking points at you, or when they find out, you don't believe the way they do they simply respond with You're an idiot. And the ad hominem argument is the entire debate, right? Yeah, you find out a lot about a person right there. Right. And I think that's fair, if they can articulate their opinion, hey, you know, what they've earned my respect, no matter how far away they are, from what my belief system is, because they know what they believe why and they can probably defend it, which is a plus. Right? Right. But I would probably still simply say, you know, at tell me more about that. Because I want to avoid knee jerking to my own conclusion based on that well, bite sized element of what they're about. You talked about the human element of, you know, reading a tweet from someone and filling in all the blanks about what their character is like, because human nature is to do exactly that. And we know that's flawed. We know that's wrong. That's what Twitter makes a living out of. Right, unfortunately, but it is still extremely flawed. When someone is given the opportunity in a safe space, right to elaborate because you've asked for it, you're gonna get it right. And they tell you more about what they believe you may go Oh, all right. Well, then you and I aren't so far off as we thought we were. I mean, I've seen that happen on this show with guests before I thought man this person's going down a rabbit hole I'm not sure my guys or I are gonna agree much with and then they changed my life with a twist they put on it. Yes, all the time. And if we're out with a woman we find attractive and we're hoping for the best on this date. And so as she I think we owe it to both of us to find out Who the heck we really are rather than jumping to these conclusions, so I love it. And I also love the idea of perhaps having your mindset challenged. In one very key way, Emily and I challenged each other's mindset in a way we thought we were going to disagree, and found that we were actually more compatible than we thought if we just took all the labels off when we were dating. Yeah, no, that sounds a little cryptic, but had to do with religion. Yes, she was raised in a different denomination than I was. And her way of talking about things is different than mine. But we were actually agreeing theologically. Yeah, you know, powerful if we just have the conversation. And yet, I think a lot of us still bristle at the idea of going out on a date with someone and disagreeing and have that blow everything up for some silly reason. And the reason why I love the steps you gave Cory, is because I think it really does give us an action plan, a toolkit and a practical way to figure out whether we do find compatibility with someone or not. And I will add one thing before we close, sure. If we don't agree with a woman's position on Israel versus Palestine, for example, does that really preclude us from being friends or even you know, being friends with benefits together? I mean, it shouldn't. One of the things I've noticed is people who really aren't independent critical thinkers will always latch on to the current thing. Right, whatever it is, it goes from Ukraine. I mean, who's talking about Ukraine anymore? Good grief. We've got Israel and Palestine taken over all the headlines. Now, it's, you know, if you don't agree with the Palestinians, if you don't think Hamas is a terror group, if you aren't pro Israel, that I can't talk to you anymore. But nobody was talking about that three months ago. And it just seems like we go from one hot potato to the other as prescribed by the media. And I just think that just isn't indicative of any kind of long term, ability to communicate with one another. And I think we do better on dates if we, if we stay away from that kind of thinking,

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Corey Nathan 37:04

what do you do? Yeah. So you bring up ISRAEL PALESTINE, I think that's a good illustration. I had an experience with a very dear friend of mine, a woman named Lisa Sharon Harper. She is African American scholar, who has done a lot of history work on her own people. And the

history of marginalized people around the world historically. So the lens that vocationally she's been trained to look through, has her leaning very much with sympathy towards Palestinians in this conflict. And she understands what genocide actually is, and is very, very sensitive to a violent aggression. And yet, she still holds space for what actually happened on October 7, regardless of being able to hold space for the terrorist acts on October 7, and what's taking place since then, she leans very heavily in one direction, my I have family in Israel. So I am kind of ripped open raw about what's happened. What I'd like to encourage folks, despite how differently we see what's been happening there, I had an encounter with Lisa, because I saw some things that she was posting. And she was sensitive and nuanced in what she was posting. But she was still very clear. And she thinks genocide has been happening. She's been using certain terms that I disagreed with. We ended up having a conversation and I'll tell you what, man, she spent a lot of time asking me questions. detailed questions, like I mentioned something in passing, like, hey, you know, my cousin's grew up with Palestinian Israeli citizens. You know, they like they're Muslim Palestinians, Bedouin Palestinians, atheist palate, but people that identify as Palestinian, my cousin's grew up with them, they play soccer with them, they work with them. One of my younger cousins is now a teacher who has Palestinian students in her class. 1.7 million Palestinians live as citizens in Israel. And, you know, she, she stopped me, she said, why is that significant to you? And it is significant to me because the populations of Egypt and Lebanon and Syria and Saudi Arabia, the surrounding countries, doesn't reflect that same pluralism in terms of Jews in those countries. So that's why it's significant. But in terms of this conversation, what you and I are talking about the fact that Lisa asked me the question, the fact that she was modeling what we were just talking about, that she was asking me, why are you so upset? What What's particularly is upsetting about this. What's relevant to this conversation? Is Lisa cared enough about our relationship to still hold on to her strong, informed scholarly perspectives, and yet cared enough about me to ask me questions about how I was feeling, why I believed what I believe why I was upset about certain things, how we could engage better not just with each other, but with the people around us. And she has a very significant audience that follows her how we can engage better how can we there's an expression in Yiddish called tikun olam or Hebrew. And it's basically heal the world. How do we heal the world is by one conversation, one relationship at a time doing it just a little bit better.



Scot McKay 40:29

And I'll tell you what, if there was ever a situation that needs that influence, in my estimation, would be this one. Because this just has global implications. And it really is a religious argument, not just a political one. And it's heartbreaking to watch people turn it purely political, especially here in this country, and you know, abroad places other than, than Israel and Palestine. And I think it's a shining example of what we're talking about where we need to be curious. And we need to be open to someone else's opinion and not knee jerk to conclusions. Very nice. Very nice. Good stuff today. His name is Corey Nathan. He's the executive producer of talking politics and religion without killing each other. And when you go to mountaintop podcast dot conference slash Nathan na th a n, you will be magically teleported to his website, where he talks a lot about politics and religion and how you can talk politics and religion with other folks as well. Cory Nathan, thank you so much for joining us today. It's been a fascinating conversation and a valuable one.



Corey Nathan 41:35

Scott, I really appreciate you including me in your conversations because you're you're clearly

having an important ones that are helping people and fun to talk about. And I'm just honored to be a part of it. Yeah,



Scot McKay 41:45

man. Thanks for joining us today. Also, it's a good topic and one I think, too many people are afraid to even broach So yeah, this has been just fantastic. And gentlemen, if you have not been to bounce top podcast.com Recently, go there. Click on the banner at the top that lets you check out the master classes, including the aforementioned one about how to be a renaissance man which was wildly popular just this past month. We've been doing those since April of 2022. So there's a whole catalogue look at their mountaintop podcast.com front slash masterclass. And while you're at Mountain Top podcast.com Check out our sponsors origin and main heroes soap and the key port as always use the coupon code mountain 10 for an additional 10% off every time you pick up something new from our sponsors. And until I talk to you again real soon this is Scot McKay from X & Y Communications in San Antonio Texas. Be good out there



Edroy Odem 42:49

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