

# A.R. Bernard

- Building Bridges
  - Nothing can be accomplished alone.
  - Building bridges is about finding common ground.
  - Agreement is a place of power, and disagreement is a place of powerlessness.
  - Common ground creates a pathway for communication.
  - Attitude determines approach, and approach determines success or failure.
  - Have an attitude of:
    - Humility
    - Empathy
    - Collaboration
    - Moral courage
- Engaging Culture [07:18]
  - Culture is the totality of the personality and character of a society.
  - One responsibility of a person of faith is to urge those in positions of power to measure their judgements against God's perspective on the nature and ordering of human society.
  - Trust is what gets you to the table.
  - You build trust by consistency and integrity — the reputation that you build over time.
  - God gives us relationships to exercise influence in a positive way and towards the common good.
- Rebuilding Lost Trust [15:06]
  - Begin by giving hope of a goal you can all work towards.
  - Find a place where you can agree.
  - Keep your word.
- Finding Common Ground [16:31]
  - When you have a proliferation of extremes, it expands the middle; there are more people in that middle ground who are willing to have a conversation.
  - The only way to move forward in a divided society is to have these civil conversations.
  - The voice of the people is not necessarily the mind of the people.
- Leaving the Table [18:54]
  - You are not going to convince everybody; you just need to convince enough of the right people in order to effect change.
- A Faith Journey [19:38]
  - Society requires not only civil order but also a moral value consensus.
  - When we are secure in our own faith, we can engage other faiths.
- Stepping into Conflict [26:08]
  - We live in tension, whether we engage it or not.

- Followers of Jesus are in tension between separation and assimilation — living the Christian difference while constructively engaging in society.
  - There is a relationship between us and the culture in which we live.
- The Most Difficult Bridge [29:22]
- Managing Continuity and Change [30:32]
  - When change is necessary, not to change becomes destructive.
  - Truth is the only agent that effects true change.
  - All truth is confrontational.
  - Knowing what to change and what to continue is the greatest challenge.
    - If you change what you should continue, you lose your identity.
    - If you continue what you should change, you become irrelevant.