

## Try Something New



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What a nice theme, civility. First of all, what is civilization and where do we all come from?

According to the literary experts, the word civility is related to the term city and it comes from the Latin “civitas” which means citizenship. With the expression civilization, we mean the knowledge, customs, ways of life of a community. It is an easy concept at first sight, but as soon as you notice it a little, you understand that everyone has their own idea about this concept and the meaning of this term. It is a word that we find every day in our readings, but we really know what we read. Civility is a virtue that must be practiced every day, a habit of choice and conscience, which shapes the way we meet and think of others.

Furthermore, like any virtue, we must work on it day by day if we want to defend and strengthen human dignity, rights, and life. Probably we never have seen such a gap between our generation and the previous of our parents. To date, we all are witnessing serious conflicts on political and economic issues, which overflow into social issues and penetrate personal and group relationships. Globally, we are aware that there is something seriously wrong with all of this but there is always a way to promote respect. We must recuperate the privilege of language.

It is mostly through words that we can express the meaning of life and the countless sensations we experience during the days. In my childhood, there is an example that remained imprinted on my mind that is the tower of Babel. This monument from Genesis shows how the haughtiness of people has destroyed humanity, in terms of conflict, war and hatred. Nevertheless, another aid in favor of civility is, for example, trying to listen more. Listening is more than hearing, there is a huge difference. It takes time and energy to understand where a person or group comes from, what they believe in, and above all why they believe and do it. Writing these words is very easy, but putting these prejudices into practice is very difficult in itself.

Furthermore, it is true that at this moment we are forced to be less sociable, due to these various lockdowns; but we have a new possibility because this new reality allows us to rethink the value of direct relationships with people. We found ourselves at a time when the amount of relationships is undoubtedly reduced due to the restrictions adopted by the nation to contain the infection from the Coronavirus. On the other hand, we have the opportunity to work on the quality of our direct and indirect relationships with others. We can talk longer on the phone, we can make video calls to see and hear friends, relatives and even distant colleagues with whom we are used to talking at the workplace. The hectic daily life often leads us to see each other more, but talk less and about superficial things.

This is the time to have a deeper understanding of the issues and adversities that our loved ones and our peers are facing in everyday life. We now have time to do some of the things that can build bridges over an abyss of irrational behaviors. It all begins with one simple act of respect and understanding. A self-education in being open to acceptance. At the end of all this, this term “civility” whether well understood or acknowledged in our own terms, can be placed into a selfless practice that can only bring advantages to our society in which we are the beneficiaries of this credence.

