EVERYDAY ETHICS

Continuing the Conversation

In Search of the Common Good: An Epilogue

Season 3, Episode 8

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Episode overview and resources

1. Bill highlighted David Brooks' final New York Times essay, "Time to Say Goodbye," reflecting on the deep cultural isolation of our time—a theme echoed by Jon Meacham and James Davison Hunter (episodes 2 & 3). [David Brooks, "Time to Say Goodbye," The New York Times, January 30, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/30/opinion/david-brooks-leaving-columnist.html]

2. David mentioned that Joanna Arellano-Gonzalez named four essential cornerstones for cultural renewal that could counter the divide in contemporary culture in her essay, "Dismantling Your Inner Empire." [The essay, mistakenly attributed to Richard Rohr, was written on the Center for Action and Contemplation website by Joanna Arellano-Gonzalez.
   a. Humility: Embracing reverence, equality, and cosmic perspective.
   b. Responsibility: Practicing active accountability and stewardship.
   c. Compassion: Tapping into God's tenderness through empathy and love.
   d. Connection: Fueling radical solidarity and action grounded in our shared sacredness.

3. One possible path forward is to develop skills that can offer stronger connections for solidarity. Seth Godin has offered 39 key attitudes that can be cultivated as practical everyday skills. [Seth Godin, "Is Our Attitude Up to Us?," Seth's Blog, October 26, 2026,

Questions for reflection and/or group conversations

1. From Godin's list, select several attitudes that interest you. Then ask yourself: what would implementing each specific attribute look like in your life? How might developing implementation skills reduce separation between you and others?

2. How did Jesus embody each of the four cornerstones of cultural renewal? How would his example inform you as you seek to express them in your life?

3. For these episodes on the common good, is "pursuit" a more fitting term than "search"?

4. Have these episodes been aspirational, inspirational, and/or motivational toward conceptualizing and implementing the common good?

5. If you have related any of this season's episodes' content to someone else, what has been their reaction or response?