

## Touchstones Theme: Harmony

We all have to get a little better at seeing each other deeply and being deeply seen. It is a question ...of understanding each other. John Ruskin, one of my heroes, said: “The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something, and tell what it saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see.” There is one skill at the center...: the ability to see someone else deeply, to know another person profoundly, to make them feel heard and understood. What is this skill? It is not a detached intellectual skill; it is an emotional form of knowing. ... Saint Augustine ...said that knowledge is a form of love. Love is a focus of attention. Love is a motivational state to learn more about another. Love is a drive to move in harmony with another. *David Brooks*



A ...model for ...living in harmony with nature is ...the conceptual umbrella of sustainability. Sustainable systems must be capable of meeting the needs of ...the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.... ...Sustainability means applying the Golden Rule across generations. It's about short run, self-interest...; but it's also about long run, shared-interest.... Sustainability requires that we find harmony between others and ourselves as well as between those of us of the present and those of the future. Sustainability requires that we find harmony. ...Harmony cannot be achieved by changing the “order of things” to suit our preferences. Harmony comes only from changing our actions to conform to the “higher order.” A life lived in harmony is its own reward. *John Ikerd*

## Join us in exploring Harmony

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