Eight Magical Teaching Properties of Dialogue

Imagine a classroom with 2 teachers but neither has come to learn. Is learning possible? Is teaching possible? What is the alternative? Consider ‘dialogue’:

1. You don’t have to know more than the other person does  
 because you acquire knowledge on-the-job.

2. You learn where the other person is coming from   
and their particular understanding, interests and attitude.

3. You won’t make a false assumption   
that your friend holds particular beliefs. Within any religion, they are not all the same.

4. You let them empty themselves  
 instead of trying to “fill their cup” while it is still full.

5. You reduce estrangement, and build up trust and fellowship  
by truly taking an interest in the person you are talking with, and appreciating what they are saying.

6. You become highly motivated  
Being engaged in dialogue will raise questions which motivate you to study more.

7. You will have more fun  
By willingly and eagerly being the ‘student’ you avoid the discomfort of having to convince the other to be your student.

8. You will know when to talk about your Faith, and what to say  
because when (and if) your partner-in-dialogue asks you a question he or she may be ready to listen.

Colin Dibdin 8 September 2019

colin.dibdin@gmail.com