

*Recommendations for Further Reading
on the topic of being polarized and divided*

Communication:

1. Speak the Truth: How to bring God back into every conversation by Carmen LaBerge
2. Conviction and Civility: Thinking and Communicating Clearly about What the Bible Teaches by Harrington & Henderson
3. Graciousness: Tempering Truth with Love by John Crotts
If you've been hurt by what others have said or written –
4. The Broken Curse: Gaining Freedom from Hurtful Words by Tom Elliff
If you've hurt others by what you've said or written –
5. War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles by Paul David Tripp

Spiritual Lessons:

6. Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport
7. The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction by Justin Whitmel Earley
8. The Wired Soul: Finding Spiritual Balance in a Hyperconnected Age by Tricia McCary Rhodes
9. Disruptive Witness: Speaking Truth in a Distracted Age by Alan Noble

Societal Concerns:

10. Them: Why We Hate Each Other – And How to Heal by Sen. Ben Sasse (mostly secular)

11. How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age by Jonathan Leeman
12. The Case for Civility: And Why Our Future Depends on it by Os Guinness
13. Making Civility Great Again: Face to Face Communication in an Age of Chaos by Kerrigan & Wells (secular)
14. Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Conflict by Arthur Brooks (secular)
15. A Purple State of Mind: Finding Middle Ground in a Divided Culture by Craig Detweiler (more academic)

Ligon Duncan, the Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary, shared his social media strategy on Twitter back in October 2018.

I wanted to share the 10 rules he shared:

1. Relentlessly encourage, edify & inform.
2. Ignore trolls, mockers & slanderers into oblivion.
3. Starve dissensionists, narcissists, & errorists of the attention they crave.
4. Point people to sound people & resources.
5. Exalt Christ. Bible. Grace. Truth. Gospel.
6. Stay out of food fights. Don't lob hand grenades into serious discussions. Bring people together.
7. Be kind. Persuade (rather than rally).
8. Treat people on social media like I would treat them in person.
9. Don't be different on social media from what I am in my life, family, church, and ministry. Be the same person online and offline.
10. Don't give inordinate attention to people whose only "platform" is social media & who elsewhere have little accountability, responsibility.