

4 Cacophony [7 Nov 2019]

When I was in middle school, several of us argued religion on the playground. The object of our contentious discussions was

- a) be right (*superior* subjectively and objectively)
- b) be distinguished (*different* from and *opposed* to someone)
- c) win (prevail *at the expense of* the other denominational viewpoint).

Sixty years later I regard that display of combative ignorance as childish and unproductive. It was shared entertainment, but other games and sports would have had more positive personal and social impact.

Is adult discourse any different from that childhood activity? Do contentious political discussions shed any *light* on our adult topics? Do political camps focus on winning instead of listening to and uplifting other people? Are we missing positive exercises that *increase* happiness?

Are we prepared to grow up?