

## How to Speak to a White Nationalist

Whew! What a weekend.

First, the simple answer on “how” to speak to a white nationalist rather than “what to say” is: like a brother. 1) Now, I know how this sounds. We don’t like these people. We think their views are repugnant. We want them to realize how evil they are. But I challenge you, when you deal with these people, to see them as people who have been thoroughly brainwashed by the historically and scientifically inaccurate narrative of white supremacy, and then see yourself as a deprogrammer. And also, don’t play holier-than-thou as if you’ve never harbored a racist thought. It is impossible to live in our society without being somewhat influenced by this narrative. It’s ubiquitous. The difference is that you have cultivated the ability to discern when you are being fed a load of bull, and you routinely employ ways to filter that nonsense out of your everyday life. These people simply haven’t. They’ve bought into the narrative hook, line, and sinker, and have then taken on society’s disapproval of them and made that a part of their personal identities. But they simply need a little deprogramming, and they need it done with love. If you are someone who will likely be identified by a white nationalist as nonwhite, everything you say will be heard through the filter of your special interest. But if you talk to them like they are your brother . . . well . . . they don’t know what to do with that. They are itching for conflict, so giving it to them feeds their dysfunction. Loving them will disarm them. If you are someone who they will likely identify as “white,” everything you say will still be heard through a filter if they see you as a “liberal,” so you can’t come from a place where your liberalness lies. It must come from a place where your love for your fellow man lies. 2) Yes, I said speak to them “like a brother,” because it is very likely that anyone you meet who identifies as a white nationalist will be male. This is because the very concept of whiteness is bound up inside patriarchy. Slavery as a system put controls on both black people AND white women. It was meant to control both. So way more white men identify with the idea of “white pride” than white women do. There are some women in the white nationalist movement, but NONE of them are leaders. Most are simply wives and girlfriends. So here’s where I get into “what to say” to them.

### White Guilt

White guilt is not the guilt that whites have over their former slaveowning legacy. White guilt refers to a specific cultural dialogue rooted in the ‘60s and ‘70s in which gov’t and school programs consciously attempted to make up for decades of racial discrimination. Too many professors wanted white boys to grow up to be nonracist white men, and so harangued them about making up for the guilt of their ancestors. That’s a lot to take on when you’re young, and so many came home at summer feeling so shitty that they started to talk to each other, and then commiserate, and at some horrible point they decided to push back. But most white nationalists I’ve talked to are surprised that there is no historical reference to “white people” before the transatlantic slave trade. They think it goes back to the Greeks or the Romans or some BS because they figure it just HAS to. But it sure don’t. Start with them there. In

fact, since the practice of calling people who look like they are of European descent “white” began during the slave trade, calling yourself “white” is an implicit endorsement of that trade. I know it doesn’t seem that way, but how else to put it? Conversely, when I call myself “black,” I am likewise identifying with the legacy of surviving that trade. So ask them if they endorse slavery. Which people from which continents should be enslaved? By what logic? The discredited science of eugenics? What percentage of African blood makes one qualified to be a slave? 80%? 75% How do we measure? What do we do with slaves who have sharper mental faculties than free whites? Are they just exceptions? Ask them to name a successful white nationalist state. If they say Germany, ask them how Nazi Germany conducted itself during peacetime. Did they offer good healthcare? Maintain safe roads? Ensure the safe conduct of commerce? No, they will tell you, the Nazis only hummed during wartime. And if you go back to the 1500s, no other state has thrived with an ethnocentric agenda. They always devolve into war. Ask them what the America they’re envisioning will look like. How will the labor be divided? How will racial purity be overseen? Any America they envision will look like a nightmare compared to this one. Keep peppering them with questions that reframe their logic and then let them come to the conclusions that that logic dictates on their own. Don’t beat them over the head with it; do it like a big brother or sister. Pour them a glass of water. Ask them about their families. Talk them down into little boys in a sandbox. Then, when they ask you about how a real man is supposed to act, don’t smile too much as you start to tell them.