

Embracing One Another's Uniqueness

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Often, children who believe that everyone sees the world the same way, learn by the age of 5 that other perspectives exist. That painful struggle of pulling and yielding thrusts us into the basics of relationships; the recognition of differences in others. At what point in life do we stop recognizing those differences and return to making great friendships like we did as children?

Candice Bosteels, founder and managing director at IdentiCy explains, "Our experiences, our preferences, our education, our upbringing all contribute to the model of the world we have, and it makes us who we are. That is not necessarily a bad thing--it becomes problematic when we start treating groups of people as less favorable, or we make bad decisions based on that model."

Everyone has tendencies or preferences based on that framework mentioned above. What steps can be taken to counteract those unhealthy approaches? Here are a few suggestions: Be open to learn about difference where you live; for instance, cultural, socio-economic, religious beliefs, and education systems. Recognize and act upon those unhealthy preferences when they show up. Blend and interact with different types of people. Get exposure so your eyes can see behind-the-scenes realities. Be the spark that improves the environment in your house, at work, or wherever you go. A fire in a forest starts with one spark.

"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness." - Olayinka Joseph

