Philosophy offers models for discussions that are civil and rational even when these involve considerable disagreement. Several components essential to philosophical discussions are often missing from debates taking place in wider society or in sound-bite media summaries. A recent debate on rational disagreement could have a profoundly negative impact on civility, and thereby on rational discussions in general. I argue that the significance of this debate extends beyond the boundaries of philosophy and I share insights about (1) what civility requires, (2) why it is necessary for participants in any serious discussion, and (3) what this means for the rational disagreement debate.