

“The Art of Living with Disagreements”

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Ephesians 4:29-32

8.31.25

Introduction:

- A. It is literally impossible to go through life without being forced to live with _____, because we are never going to agree with _____ person about _____.
- B. Although there may be some people in the world who have no _____ of their own, I think the vast majority of people are very _____.
- C. Please don't misunderstand me – I'm not trying to say that we shouldn't develop vast _____ and strong _____ and opinions.
- D. What I am trying to say is that we have to be careful about how we _____ our knowledge, convictions and opinions, and be careful about what we allow our knowledge and opinions to do to our _____ with others.

I. Stay _____

- A. Foundational truth: There is a _____ and you and I are not _____.
- B. God knows _____ and is always _____, we do not and are not.
- C. Only God knows everything about a _____: including their thoughts, motives, and the experiences that have shaped them.
- D. Only God can _____ the _____.
- E. _____ can cause lots of problems in our relationship with God and others.

II. Seek to _____ Before Being _____.

- A. It is best that we start with trying to understand _____ they think and _____ they think that way.
- B. James reminds us to “be quick to _____, slow to _____ and slow to become _____.” (James 1:19)
- C. Proverbs 18:3 says that we should _____ before we give an _____.
- D. As we seek to understand other people's perspectives, it helps to keep in mind that there are often several _____, aspects and layers to a complicated issue.
- E. Consider the old story from India about the six _____ men describing an _____.

III. Be Controlled by _____.

- A. Paul wrote: Knowledge _____ up, but love _____ up. (1 Cor. 8:1)
- B. In 1 Cor. 13, Paul says that without love, we are _____ (1 Cor. 13:2), and then he describes what love _____ like and how it _____. (13:4-8)
- C. Paul clarifies that we should speak the _____ in _____. (Eph. 4:15)
- D. Later in Eph. 4, Paul says that no “_____” talk should come out of our _____. (Eph. 4:29, NIV)

Conclusion:

- A. Doing and being these three things will help us maintain the perspective that our _____ with other people and with God is just as or more important than any _____ at hand.

Answer Key: Intro.A. disagreements, every, everything. B. opinions, opinionated. C. knowledge, convictions. D. use, relationships. I. Humble. I.A. God, Him. I.B. everything, right. I.C. person. I.D. predict, future. II. Understand, Understood. II.A. what, why. II.B. listen, speak, angry. II.C. listen, answer. II.D. vantage, points. II.E. blind, elephant. III. Love. III.A. puffs, builds. III.B. nothing, looks, acts. III.C. truth, love. III.D. unwholesome, mouths. Concl.A. relationships, issue.