

# HOW TO DISAGREE

## AUGUST 16, 2020

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Disagreement is a part of life.

**Acts 16:1-5** Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey,

**Acts 16:4** As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.

### II. HOW TO DISAGREE

#### 1. *Determine What Really Matters*

##### A. The leading of the Holy Spirit matters.

**Acts 15:28** It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

**Acts 15:31** The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

##### B. Other people matter.

**Acts 15:19-20** "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

**2 Timothy 2:23-26** Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do His will.

- Be careful that you do not win an argument and lose the person.
- Be careful that you do not focus on what is temporary and jeopardize the eternal.

## ***2. Decide How to Move Forward***

### **A. Move Forward with Grace**

**Acts 15:11** No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

### **B. Move Forward with Honor**

**Acts 15:36-41** Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- Our differences may lead to disagreement.
- Disagreement may require distance.
- Distance is not dissing.
- You can disagree and not self-destruct.

### **C. Move Forward with Sacrifice**

**Acts 16:1-5** Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

- Am I willing to do what I do not have to do in order to do what I am called to do?

### **D. Move Forward with Jesus**

**1 Timothy 1:5** The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.