

April 15 | Sunday

Which Way You Headed? Healthy Disagreement

Read [Matthew 18:15-20](#)



16 | Mon – Fighting words | Read [Proverbs 21:2](#)

What are you passionate about? Whether it is parenting style, the environment, healthy eating, political issues or religious beliefs, we find so many ways to disagree...loudly and often to the detriment of our relationships. Social media is full of argumentative, hateful comments made by those who are otherwise polite people. Are Christians exempt from this behavior? Sadly, no. Does communicating your strongly-held beliefs sometimes cause you to cross the line into fighting words that wound others and/or discredit your reputation as a believer?

17 | Tue – Then and now | Read [Mark 12:13-17](#) / [John 8:2-11](#) / [Matthew 15:1-6](#)

List some of the political, social and religious injustices that were a part of Jesus' culture. Which of those did he address? What are things he could have but did not? What were his priorities? And how did Jesus treat those who disagreed with him? Read the three examples listed above. How do you think Jesus would handle the kind of disagreement or conflict you might be facing right now?

18 | Wed – A final request | Read [John 17:11, 20](#)

Jesus prayed one final time over his disciples on the night before he was crucified. What did he ask his Father for? It is all boiled down to verse 11. Does that surprise you? Even more surprising is that Jesus went on to pray for us who were yet unborn! What did he ask his Father to do for us (starting in verse 20)? Why do you think unity is so important among those who follow Jesus? What does unity look like in today's complex world?

19 | Thu – Is it okay for believers to disagree with each other? | Read [Acts 15:1-6, 26-41](#)

The accounts of the early church give several examples of disagreements between believers. Two are listed in Acts 15. Read to see how these situations were resolved. How was God able to use those disagreements to help the church grow? Even when you 'agree to disagree' with someone because of strongly-held beliefs, can God still use it to help you both grow? Do differing opinions have to ruin your relationships?

20 | Fri – A better way | Read [Matthew 18:15-17](#) / [Galatians 2:11-16](#) / [2 Peter 3:15-16](#)

In our culture, it is *uncommon* to 'call out' someone we know for clear wrongdoing, especially in the church, but Jesus gave us a process for dealing with disagreements rooted in sinful behavior. When Paul confronted Cephas (Peter) for hypocrisy in Galatians 2, did it make them enemies? See what Peter said about Paul in a final letter. Why is it important to speak first to the person with whom you have a problem *before* sharing it with others?

21 | Sat – The *how* is as important as the *why* | Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) and [16:13-14](#)

Conflicts are inevitable. Ignoring or complaining to others usually makes matters worse. Hard as it may be, healthy relationships require honest conversations and attitude is key to a good outcome. A brutal 'honesty' that assumes you are 100% right will *not* resolve conflict. Paul gave us important guidelines about our motivation (what is best for all) and our attitude (humility) in 1 Corinthians. If you speak honestly with *this* attitude, you will be honoring God...even if things are not immediately resolved. Why not try it?