

UNITY

Unity - September 13, 2015 - The Essentials

Introduction

Sometimes there are some real issues that come up in life where we find ourselves in a passionate disagreement with those closest to us. The issues are real and we are passionate about them. It's why most professional settings they tell you to not talk about money, religion, or politics. These issues seem to be the ones that elicit the most passion from us. The question we want to answer in this study is; ***How do we maintain unity when we disagree on Essential Beliefs?***

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been in a disagreement with someone concerning something you believed to be absolute truth? What was it and why did you disagree with the other person?
2. Read [Matthew 7:1](#). Read [John 7:24](#). What is the difference Jesus points out when judging.
3. In the message, Jon stated; "Righteous judgement says: The principles and commands of God are truth. Those who confess Him as Lord should be submitted to living in these truths." Can you see the difference in judging someone and making a righteous judgement? Why or Why Not?
4. Read [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#). What does God say about judging "outsiders" (those who are not believers)?
5. Read [Romans 16:17-18](#). What does God say we should look out for inside of the church? Why do you believe God made this the "benchmark" for addressing disagreements in the church?
6. Read [Matthew 18:15-20](#). List in order the formula Jesus gives for dealing with disagreements over Essential Beliefs of the Christian faith.

Moving Forward

Here is the way Jesus gives us to maintain unity when we disagree on Essential Beliefs:

How to maintain unity when we disagree on nonessential issues:

1. Tell the person in private that they offended you and that you seek the unity to be restored.
2. Invite wise spiritual counsel to mediate the disagreement.
3. Invite the pastors and leaders of the church to mediate the disagreement.
4. Discontinue all contact with the person and prayerfully release them to God.

Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. - [Galatians 6:1](#) (ESV)