

# UNITY

## **Unity - September 6, 2015 - The Nonessentials**

### **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?***

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever been in a disagreement with someone really close to you (a family member, coworker, or close friend/ fellow church member) that lasted a long time? What's the longest disagreement you have had with someone and why did the disagreement last so long?
2. How do you normally handle disagreements with those closest to you?
3. In the message, Jon stated; "Unity does not require agreement on all issues, it requires agreement only on the essential issues." Have you found this to be true in your own dealings with others? What are some "essential issues" that are personal to you?
4. Read [Romans chapters 13, 14, 15](#). What does God say about nonessential issues? How does He teach us to handle issues of disagreement that are nonessential? What does He say is more important than our own opinions about nonessential issues?
5. Take time to make a personal list of issues that are essential to you and look up scriptures or principles from God's word concerning them so that you have a firm foundation of truth that helps you create healthy boundaries for your life.

### **Moving Forward**

Here are some ways God gives us in Romans to maintain unity when we find ourselves in a disagreement with others over nonessential issues:

### **How to maintain unity when we disagree on nonessential issues:**

1. Determine if the disagreement is over an essential or nonessential issue.
2. Place the highest value on people and relationship rather than opinions or things.
3. Always believe the best about the other person.
4. Refuse to make a final judgement for anyone except yourself on nonessential issues.
5. Make your personal opinion less important than the well-being of the other person.
6. Always be willing to keep an open mind and open lines of healthy communication.

### **Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory**

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.- [Romans 14:19 \(ESV\)](#)