*Series, Asking for a Friend*

**How to Disagree Well**

Use **P** it! – method.

### **Acts 15:1-2; 6-20; 36-41**

### **The Council at Jerusalem**

**1** Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” **2** This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

**6** The apostles and elders met to consider this question. **7** After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. **8** God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. **9** He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **10** Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? **11** No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

**12** The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. **13** When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. **14** Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. **15** The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

**16** “‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,

**17** that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,

 even all the Gentiles who bear my name,

says the Lord, who does these things’—

**18** things known from long ago.

**19** “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. **20** 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. **21** For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

### **Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas**

**36** 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.” **37** Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, **38** 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. **39** They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. **41** He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Theme & Goal:**

Jesus uses **D** to make our hearts more **A** to him

Orthodoxy - right **B** .

Orthopraxy - right **P .**

Orthopathy - right **H** , the right attitude

**Matthew 23:27-28**

**27** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **28** In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Kathy Keller once said that the “true nature and natural religion” of the human heart is

**S -R .**

1. What is more **I** : being right or being like Christ?

**Philippians 2:3-8**

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**6** Who, being in very nature God,

 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

**7** rather, he made himself nothing

 by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philippians+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant,

 being made in human likeness.

**8** And being found in appearance as a man,

 he humbled himself

 by becoming obedient to death—

 even death on a cross!

**Q:** Are you humble enough to **C** or (even) change your own views when the Holy Spirit moves?

**Q:** Are you humble enough to not take your views so **S** ?

**M** in the major and **M** in the minors.

1. What is more important: being right or being in **R** ?

Willie Jennings: “What should be the goal of our words? The goal must be

**C** and joining.”

**Q:** Are you humble enough to listen to others **R** their spiritual gifts?

**Q:** Are you humble enough to **S** yourself for the sake of unity?

**Romans 14:19-20**

**19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **20** Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. **21** It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

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