

- **Galatians** (See also, 5:1 [don't submit] and 6:10 [do good to all])
  - (2:11) Paul: "I opposed" Peter "to his face."
  - (5:15) Do not "bite and devour" one another.
- **Ephesians**
  - (1:22-23, 2:13-14, 3:6, 4:1-6) Believers in the body are united.
  - (4:17-32, 5:1-21) Believers ought to live different than before.
- **Philippians** (See also, 3:12-16 [the mature] and 3:17-21 [keep your eyes])
  - (1:27-30, 2:1-5) Believers should be of the same mind.
  - (4:2-3) Believers may need others to help them agree in the Lord.
- **Colossians**
  - (2:4, 8, 16, 18, 20) Do not let anyone "delude" you away from Christ.
  - (3:5-11, 12-17) Our essential oneness reorients our differences.
- **1 and 2 Thessalonians**
  - (2:1-16) Paul declared the gospel in the midst of "much conflict."
  - (5:12-22) People may need to be treated differently per their need.
  - (2:15) Hold firm to the traditions you were taught.
  - (3:6-15) Keep away from a "brother" who doesn't walk after the tradition.
- **1 and 2 Timothy and Titus**
  - Timothy and Titus are supposed to guard the truth and charge others to not teach against it (1:3-7, 18-20, 4:1-16, 6:2-10, 6:20-21; 1:13-15, 3:1-9).
  - They are also supposed to avoid quarreling and at times avoid certain people who stir up division (2:14-19, 2:22-26; 1:10-16, 2:15, 3:8-11)
- **Philemon** (Paul "appeals" to him to agree regarding acting as he would, rather than commanding him to do so.)
- **Hebrews** (We need to "pay attention" to, "consider," and "hold firm" to certain truths or we could "drift away" and "fall away." And how we hear and see can be affected by numerous factors we give ourselves to.)
- **James**
  - (3:13-18) Wisdom from above will conduct itself for the sake of peace.
  - (4:1-5) Friendship with the world will result in enmity with God.
- **1 and 2 Peter and Jude**
  - (3:8-12, 4:7-11) We are to pursue unity of mind and love for one another.
  - (3:14, 17) We are to be at peace and not carried away with error.
- **1, 2, and 3 John** (Fellowship with God entails fellowship with one another, and walking in the light and the truth entails responding to sin appropriately, loving one another, obeying God, and not loving the world.)

Sunday, August 31, 2025  
 Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**A Theology of Disagreement**  
 No. 5 | The New Testament and Disagreement, pt. 2  
**Selected Scriptures**

## Review

### A Theology of Disagreement

We can disagree about what **is** (reality).  
 We can disagree about what it **means** (interpretation).  
 We can disagree about what is **right** (righteous).  
 We can disagree about what is **best** (wisdom).  
 We can disagree about what we should **care** about (values).  
 We can disagree about what we should **want** (desires).  
 We can disagree about what we are **okay** with (submission).

- A disagreement is a situation in which two parties do not have the same opinion.
- A disagreement occurs, most observably, because no two parties are exactly the same and both parties are naturally morally corrupt.
- A disagreement may not initially be morally consequential or result in immoral conduct between two parties.
- A disagreement may also start out immorally by one or both parties, and proceed quickly to conflict or a range of other relationally-charged actions.

### The New Testament and Disagreement, pt. 2

What do we see in the New Testament that may contribute to our understanding of disagreement and our handling of disagreement?

### Disagreement in the rest of the New Testament

#### - Acts

What do we see in Acts that relates to disagreement?

#### The Founding of the Church

- (1:12-26) The eleven apostles worked together to determine a replacement for Judas.
- (2:1-21) Peter informed the crowd (on the day of Pentecost) that they were not drunk as some supposed.
- (2:22-41) Peter informed the crowd that they all needed to know and agree to the truth about Jesus:

ESV **Acts 2:36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God

calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- (2:42-47) The nature of the first church (all who believed) was that they were together and shared with each other:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### The Witness of the Church

- (3:1-4:22) The religious were annoyed at the disciples' teaching about Jesus and commanded them to stop:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 4:17** But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." <sup>18</sup> So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, <sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

- (4:23-31) The disciples both refused to comply to their order and asked God to give them boldness to continue speaking his word:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 4:29** And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

#### - Peter

- (5:1-11) He withstood Ananias and Sapphira.
- (5:17-42) He withstood the religious leaders.
- (8:9-24) He withstood Simon.
- (11:4-17) He withstood the circumcision party.

#### - Paul

- (13:9) He withstood Elymas. "You son of the devil..."
- (13:46) He withstood the Jews. "...we are turning to the Gentiles."
- (14:15) He withstood the Lystrans. "We also are men..."
- (16:37) He withstood the magistrates. "No! Let them come..."

### The Life of the Church

- (6:1-7) A complaint arose within the church in Jerusalem and it threatened the unity of the church and ongoing ministry of the word.
- (9:20-30) The Jews sought to kill Saul (Paul) after his conversion and the disciples were (initially) afraid of him.
- (10:1-11:18) Peter didn't (initially) know how to treat Gentiles who believed in Jesus and neither did other Jews.
- (15:1-35) The Jerusalem church came to agreement on how to encourage Gentiles who believed in Jesus and the result was received.

### The Believers of the Church

- (15:36-41) Paul and Barnabas disagreed sharply with each other.
- (16:6-10) The Holy Spirit disagreed with Paul's plan to go to Bithynia.
- (18:24-28) Priscilla and Aquila (initially) disagreed with Apollos' teaching.
- (21:1-14) Paul and the disciples disagreed regarding him going to Jerusalem.

#### - The Epistles (Romans through Jude)

What do we see in the epistles that relates to disagreement?

#### - Romans

- (1:18) All people naturally "suppress the truth" and do "not honor" God.
- (5:1) If we are justified by faith, "we have peace with God." (v. 8)
- (12:1-8) We should discern what is "acceptable" with God and function in oneness with the rest of the body.
- **(14:1-15:7)** We should "welcome one another" and not "quarrel over opinions."

See also, 7:15-20 (Paul disagrees with himself?), 8:7 (the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God), and 16:17-18 (watch out for and avoid certain people who cause divisions).

#### - 1 Corinthians

- (1:10) "All of you" should agree, and there should be no "quarreling."
- (5:1-13) Do not "associate" with an unrepentant "brother."
- **(8:1-10:31)** Take care not to sin against your "brother" regarding matters of conscience.
- (12:12-31) Recognize that you must operate for the good of the (one) body, and the rest of the members must do so as well.

See also, 4:6-7 (don't go beyond what is written), 6:1-4 (avoid lawsuits with each other), 11:17-34 (consider the body), and 15:12 (agree on the res.)

#### - 2 Corinthians (See also, 5:16-21 and 12:19-20)

- (6:14) Do not be "unequally yoked" with unbelievers.
- (13:11) "Aim for restoration" and "agree with one another."