

making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- James 1:1-5:20
- 1 Peter 1:1-5:14

Avoid...

...pity-parties, talking louder/over, raising your voice, interrupting, assuming, the silent treatment, treating them impersonally/as inferior, inflammatory gestures/words, getting defensive/easy offended, taking it personally, airing your grievances, careless use of words, confirmation bias/echo-chamber, etc.

Cultivate...

...the Golden Rule, being quick to hear, being slow to speak/anger, seeking understanding, an awareness of your idiosyncrasies/sensibilities, affection for one another, impartiality in treating others, gentleness/kindness/patience, considering the interests of others, speaking the truth in love, outdoing one another in showing honor, etc.

The (MORE/LESS) you are **walking by the Spirit** (Galatians 5:13-6:10); actually **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit** (Ephesians 4:1-16); a **doer of the word**, not a hearer only (James 1:19-27); showing the **wisdom from above**, not earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18); getting to know people as the people they are (Philippians 2:1-11); the (MORE/LESS) you will view and handle disagreement faithfully.

We can wait with hope for the day when the way we view and handle disagreement will forever be changed.

^{ESV} **Isaiah 35:1** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sunday, October 26, 2025
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

A Theology of Disagreement
No. 12 | Conclusion
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Conclusion

A Theology of Disagreement...

- 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.

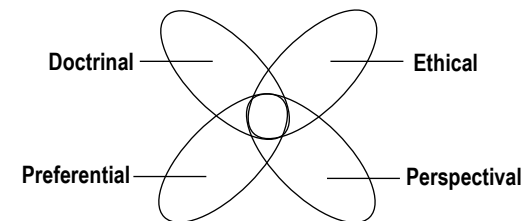
What have we covered?

We experience disagreement as a regular part of human existence.

We experience disagreement most fundamentally because of how our differences are affected by corruption that is in the world.

We experience disagreement over virtually everything:

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).



We experience disagreement for potentially many and varied reasons:

We can disagree because we **see** differently (what we *perceive* is going on).
We can disagree because we **hear** differently (what *influences* our biases).
We can disagree because we **feel** differently (what we *care* about or value).
We can disagree because we **taste** differently (what we think is *appropriate*).

We can disagree because we **smell** differently (what is *pleasing* to us).
 We can disagree because we **think** differently (what forms our *reasoning*).
 We can disagree because we **believe** differently (what *convinces* us).

Because of the corruption that is in the world because of sin, we are full of pride and unbelief and thus default to trusting in our own understanding.

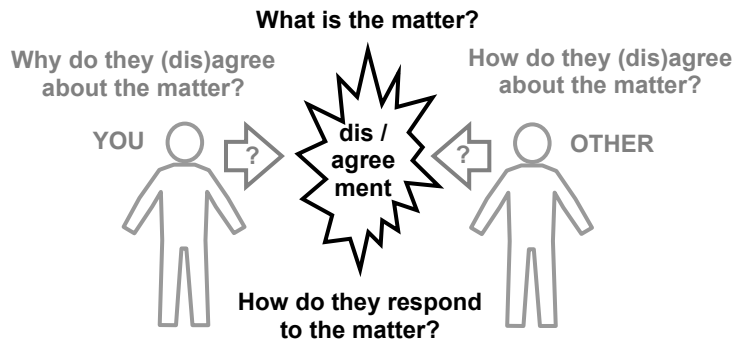
We can operate out of different...knowledge, desires, experiences/circumstances, levels of maturity/development, traits/condition, expectations/acclulturation, fear.

What should we do now?

It matters how we view and handle disagreement.

^{ESV} **Romans 14:7** For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

We can seek to grow in and apply **truth, unity, love, and wisdom** in viewing and handling disagreement.



How do **truth, unity, love, and wisdom** apply to a disagreement?

In practical terms, we should pursue growing up in Christ which will change the way we view and handle disagreement.

Ask yourself some questions...

- Do I need to own any sin for the way I have been (or am) involved in disagreement?

- Do I have any habits of mind or interaction that could unnecessarily contribute to disagreement (or disagreement handled poorly)?
- Do I actually plan to prioritize the virtues of Christ in approaching disagreement?

Give yourself to putting off vices of the flesh and putting on the virtues of Christ...

- Romans 12:1-21 and 13:1-14
- **Ephesians 4:17-5:21** (and Colossians 3:1-4:6)

^{ESV} **Ephesians 4:17** Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!- ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and