

How To Disagree Agreeably

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Three **choices** that stop conflict before it starts:

I. Choose _____ over Politics.

A. Relationships are more important than your _____.

Romans 14:19-22 (NIV)

B. Kindness is more important than your _____.

> You can (and should) be both civil AND convinced!

1. Be _____.

"If you can't be KIND, be QUIET."

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV84) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

2. Listen _____.

James 1:19 (NIV84) My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry .

3. Be _____.

James 4:6 (NIV) ...Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

II. Choose _____ over Uniformity.

A. What's the _____ between Unity & Uniformity?

- **Unity** is a constant effort to treat each other with respect and tolerate each other's differences.
- **Uniformity** is the state of being uniform; holding the same views, beliefs, standards, ethics, etc. With uniformity there is no allowance for differences.

B. Jesus prayed for _____, not uniformity.

John 17:23b (NIV84) "May they be brought to **complete unity** to let the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Philippians 2:2 (NASB) "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

III. Choose _____ over Loathing.

A. Love is always the _____.

1 Peter 2:17 (NIV84) Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

1 Corinthians 8:1 – "Knowledge puffs up, love builds up."

1 Corinthians 1-3; 13b – The greatest of these is love!

B. Give up the _____ to be right.

1 Corinthians 6:6 (NIV84) The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn from this message? Share one point that stood out to you.
2. Have you ever let a disagreement over politics affect your relationship with other Christians? How did it end? What could you have done better?
3. If all of your politically-themed social media posts were put on the screen at church, would you feel comfortable defending them to those who disagree? If not, why not?
4. Talk about the difference between UNITY and UNIFORMITY (Chipotle example). What is Jesus' priority (found in John 17) – His prayer for Believers?
5. Why is it so hard for you to admit that you might be **wrong** about political issues?
6. How can you grow in love toward people who have different political convictions? Give real life examples.

Resources:

- See Romans series, part 40; March 9, 2024; "Judge Much?" (Romans 14:1-12), by Pastor Bill Young
- Get Wisdom series, March 3, 2019, "Godly Correction", by Pastor Bill Young
- Oxford Dictionaries, "Political Addition" <https://qz.com/291533/this-is-how-liberals-and-conservatives-insult-each-other>