



Attitudes of Excellence

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Lesson Three: The Higher Ground in Conflicts & Disagreements

In the past few days, more than 60 American Universities have witnessed protests by students who support the Palestinian fight against Israel. Violence and arrests have brought to the forefront a lesson for us about conflicts and disagreements. "Attitudes when we disagree" is a valuable lesson for us.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger—Prov 15:1
A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute—Prov 15:18

A. Disagreements are a part of life:

- Mk 8:11 Pharisees arguing with Jesus
- 1 Cor 6:5-6 Brethren suing one another
- Gal 5:15 Troubled church about to destroy itself
- Phil 4:2 Two told to get along with one another
- Acts 15:1-2 Doctrinal disagreement
- Acts 15:39 Personal disagreement



What am I to do if I think something is wrong, but nothing is being done about it?

B. Your attitude in disagreements is as _____ as what and why you disagree:

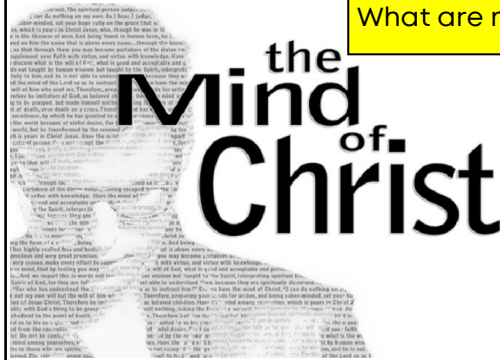
- STOP** Don't Use _____ (Prov 10:12)
 Jesus: (Jn 8:48; 10:20)
 Paul: (2 Cor 10:10; Acts 26:24)
- STOP** Don't Accuse Without the _____
 Nehemiah was accused of building the wall so he could be king (Neh 6:6)
- STOP** Don't Let Your _____ Get the Best of You (Eph 4:25-27)
- STOP** Don't break _____ or use violence (1 Pet 2:21-23)
- STOP** Don't make _____ if you are not in the position to do

Two Prevailing Principles:

1. _____ (Mt 7:12)
 2. Letting your _____ spirit be known (Phil 4:5; Col 3:12-14)
- What will this do to a disagreement?

What are my options if someone won't reasonably discuss a difference?

What are we to make of Jesus driving out the money changers (Jn 2:14-16)?



There are times when we do well to be angry.
 The anger of Jesus was directed toward the _____ of God
 and the _____ of others

Doctrinal matters matter: Acts 15:1-22

What was at stake here?

Why is calling this the "Jerusalem Conference" misleading?

No chosen _____ represented the churches
No one _____
No one _____ which side had the most people
No one suggested that each person _____ for himself
No one said it really didn't _____
No one said I will find a _____ that _____ the way I do
No one said that everyone has their own _____

1. They saw what the _____ were doing (Acts 15:7-8, 12; Phil 4:9)
2. James showed what the _____ taught (15:15-18)
Promise to Abraham (Gen 12:3; 22:18)
Hope of Jesus (Jn 10:16)
Commission of Jesus (Mk 16:15)
3. Conclusion reached (Acts 15:28-29)

Personal Matters: Acts 15:36-39

1. Sometimes it is not a matter of _____
2. Don't _____ someone to do what they are not comfortable doing (Rom 14:5; Phil 2:12)
3. Continue to _____ with the Lord and seek Heaven

I disagree with things at church...

- Is it doctrinal or a matter of judgment? What's the difference?
- What is the Biblical way that I should deal with this?
- Is it possible for me to still worship with my convictions?
- If I must break and end fellowship, what must I remember?
Prov 6:19; Rom 16:17; 14:1, 3)

the
Mind
of
Christ