



## Seeking Peace When We Disagree...it is possible!

September 16, 2018

### Level 1 Disagreements - Not all disagreements are the same

- Rolls of toilet paper should be put in with the paper falling inward toward the wall or outward toward the "participant"
- I love Mexican food and you love Italian Food
- The Warriors are the best basketball team of the decade or they are the best team of the century

### Level 2 Disagreements - Not all disagreements are the same

- Education of children is done best in, a public school, a Christian school, in a Home School...
- We can know when Jesus will return or only God knows when the end will come
- How we discipline children

### Level 3 Disagreements - Not all disagreements are the same

- I am a Christian and you are an atheist
- Political Convictions
- Cultural Differences

### Lesson 1. I can [listen](#) to you (and [learn](#) from you) even when we disagree

John 4:7-15

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

### **Some Observations:**

- They knew and acknowledged their differences
- Their disagreements were significant
- They had hearty conversation and "heard" each other
- Truth came to the surface while many of the differences remained

### **Living the lesson and finding peace among disagreements:**

- I will try not to judge you by outward appearances
- I will ask good questions and hear what you think and believe
- I love to learn truth and know it can come from many surprising places

### **Lesson 2. I can [love](#) you (and be [loved](#) by you) even when we don't see things the same way**

Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Some Observations:**

- It is easy to hate those we see as an enemy
- Jesus flips our perceptions and patterns upside-down!
- We are called to be different
- We are expected to grow in maturity

**Living the lesson and finding peace among disagreements:**

- I won't let disagreements, even level 3, lead to hate in my heart
- I will begin praying for those I disagree...and even those who call me their enemy!
- I will extend acts of love to those who stand against me