

# LOF 5 - WALKING IN LOVE PT 2 - "AGREE TO DISAGREE"

5/8/21

11:28 am

WELCOME TO THE 2ND INSTALLMENT OF WALKING IN GOD'S LOVE

## GOD IS PASSIONATE WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.

- "THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS"
  - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30:31
- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love 1 John 4:8
- If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all Romans 12:18
- By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35
- SO TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN:
  - WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK IN GOD'S LOVE IN OUR DAILY LIFE.
  - WE'RE GOING TO EVALUATE WHAT WE NEED TO CHANGE IN OUR ACTION, WORDS, IN THE WAY WE TREAT OTHERS...
  - SO BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT WE'RE HIS DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AMEN?
  - TONIGHT, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ON....

## HOW TO LOVE PASSIONATELY, EVEN WHEN YOU DISAGREE COMPLETELY?

- **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.
- **35** But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful LUKE 6:32-36
- TITLE: "AGREE TO DISAGREE"
- THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC BECAUSE:
  - **DISAGREEMENTS ARE PART OF LIFE.**
  - **AS A COUPLE**
    - ALL OF US ARE BROUGHT UP BY DIFFERENT FAMILIES WITH DIFFERENT SETS OF BELIEFS, WITH DIFFERENT SETS OF PAST AND UPBRINGINGS.
    - FOR US TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A HEALTHY GODLY RELATIONSHIPS, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO OVERCOME/USE DISAGREEMENTS AS A FUEL FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS.
    - "CONFLICT/DISAGREEMENT WHEN HANDLED PROPERLY IS GOOD FOR RELATIONSHIP"
    - CONTRARY TO WHAT THE WORLD IS TEACHING, CONFLICT/DISAGREEMENT IS ACTUALLY NOT ALWAYS A BAD SIGN WITHIN RELATIONSHIPS.
    - Psychology Today looked into the science of conflict and what was discovered was fairly counter-intuitive.  
"(Conflict) looked at from this perspective, arguments can actually be good for a relationship. They are the primary vehicle by which we can improve our relationship. If we're unhappy with something our partner does or doesn't do, only by confronting them can we give ourselves a chance to make our needs understood." Psychology Today
    - PS JES AND I'S RELATIONSHIP ARE GETTING STRONGER BECAUSE OF OUR DISAGREEMENTS THAN OUR AGREEMENTS.
    - Confronting, or disagreeing, is not meant to be a tool that devalues people.
    - BUT WHERE THAT LOGIC BREAKS DOWN IS WHEN WE START TO SEE **DISAGREEMENT AS "NOT LOVING"**
    - THAT LOGIC BREAKS DOWN IS WHEN WE START TO SEE **AGREEING = LOVING.**
    - "Arguments also make partners come together as a couple to fix their problems as a couple, and if they're successful at it, can actually make them feel more bonded to each other."
  - **AS A DISCIPLE**
    - GOD SENDS US TO LOVE THE UNBELIEVERS, PEOPLE WITH A DIFFERENT SETS OF BELIEFS WITH US.
    - FOR US TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNER, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO LOVE REGARDLESS OF OUR DISAGREEMENTS.
    - FOR PEOPLE TO BELIEVE, THEY FIRST NEED TO FEEL BELONG.

## BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL GOOD PASTOR...

- **When someone disagrees with you, it never feels good.** The natural response to disagreement is to jump to the defensive, assume the worst, and counter in anger, frustration, or confusion.
- **But it doesn't have to be this way.**
- **You can make the change in how you respond to disagreement and begin to love well with these three steps:**
  1. **UNDERSTAND.**
  2. **CREATE.**
  3. **ACT.**

### 1. UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN THEIR OPINIONS

- Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"
- When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Matthew 9:10-12
- **JESUS LOVES PEOPLE MORE THAN THEIR OPINIONS.**
- **3 THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE'S OPINIONS:**
  1. **WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS**
  2. **THEY ARE SHAPED BY OUR PASTS, UPBRINGINGS, EXPERIENCES.**
    - There are thousands of circumstances and past experiences that lead each of us towards our opinions.
    - We are all molded and shaped by our surroundings, experiences, and values. From these influences, we create ideas and beliefs about the world and we continue to adapt over time.
  3. **PEOPLE'S OPINIONS CHANGE!**
    - If every kid in the world grew up to be the profession they aspired to in first grade, there would be an abundance of firefighters, astronauts, and professional athletes. Instead, as most kids grow up, their desires shift and their circumstances lead them towards new aspirations and goals.
    - Much of what we think (OUR OPINION) is not as deeply-set as we might originally believe.
    - Always remember that preferences and opinions aren't set in stone. You don't have to agree with everyone's preferences, but that doesn't mean you have to hate who they are as a person or refuse to hear their preferences.
- **JESUS LOVES THE PERSON REGARDLESS OF THEIR OPINIONS**
  - WE OFTEN GOT BOUGHT DOWN IN THE DEBATE OF OPINIONS
  - THAT WE FOGOT THAT WE'RE CALLED TO SAVE PEOPLE.
  - WE WERE NEVER CALLED TO WIN A DEBATE COMPETITION.
  - HE JUST WANTS THEM TO BE SAVED.
  - "YOU DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT JESUS IS GOING TO WIN YOU OVER"
  - "BUT IN THE MEAN TIME, I'M GOING TO LOVE YOU ANYWAY."

### 2. CREATE MARGIN FOR DISAGREEMENT

- EXPECT DISAGREEMENT, DON'T ACT SURPRISED WHEN IT COMES, EXPECT IT.
  - "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. MATTHEW 10:16
  - "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first" JOHN 15:18
- IN RELATIONSHIP
  - DISAGREEMENT and resolving conflict can actually be a healthy step for relationships, then it is important to get in the habit of making margin for disagreement.
  - Disagreeing is like hot sauce — put a little bit on a dish and it adds some spice and makes the dish better. Put a lot on and your mouth is on fire.
  - Making margin for disagreement means that you are giving people selective opportunities to be real and vulnerable with you. You are asking for feedback and checking to make sure that you actually know how someone is feeling without just assuming you know.
- DON'T GIVE UP TOO EASILY.
  - KEEP LOVING, KEEP SOWING TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING.
  - WHY? BECAUSE WHEN THEY NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, THEY'LL COME TO YOU.

### 3. ACT: LISTEN WELL & LOVE ANYWAYS

- If you disagree with someone, that doesn't automatically give you the right not to listen to them. In fact, because you disagree with them, you may need to consider listening to them even more.
- Too often, people use their freedom to disagree as a way to stop listening to those around them. It's very easy to fall into the line of thinking that says, "if I don't like what you are saying, I just won't listen."
- If you want to disagree well and see the benefit good conflict management can have on your relationships, you may want to consider starting with listening well. There are few things on Earth that are completely set in stone, so there is rarely a negative trade-off to practicing the skill of good listening.
- Responding to a disagreement by listening well is a great place to start, but it's hardly the end. Once you listen well, choose to take the next step and love anyway.
- When you listen well, there is still a chance you won't like what you hear. That's totally normal. When this happens, it's important to remember that the right next "step" is more often a healthy disagreement rather than choosing to not love someone.
- Listen well, disagree as needed, but love anyway

## DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

- **GOD IS PASSIONATE WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.**
  - "THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS"
    - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30:31
  - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love 1 John 4:8
- **TODAY WE'RE LEARNING "HOW TO LOVE PASSIONATELY, EVEN WHEN YOU DISAGREE COMPLETELY?"**
  - DISAGREEMENTS ARE PART OF LIFE.
  - "CONFLICT/DISAGREEMENT WHEN HANDLED PROPERLY IS GOOD FOR RELATIONSHIP"
- **HOW?**
  1. UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN OPINION. LOVE PEOPLE MORE THAN THEIR OPINION.
  2. CREATE MARGIN FOR DISAGREEMENT. EXPECT THAT DISAGREEMENT WILL HAPPEN.
  3. ACT BY LISTENING WELL AND LOVE ANYWAYS (NEVER GIVE UP ON A RELATIONSHIP)
- **IN WHICH AREA WILL YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOVE OTHERS IN ORDER TO WIN THEIR SOULS?**