



**Improving the Way You Think About Disagreements
(The Danger of Never Getting Beyond Disagreements)
The Gathering Weekend**

**11am Service
September 15, 2024**

Series Outline and Goals:

1. What Makes Disagreements Difficult for Religious People (Matthew 18:1-14)
2. When Children and Parents Disagree (Matthew 18:1-14)
3. 9am What is the Best Way to Resolve a Disagreements (Matthew 18:15-35)
- 3b. 11am The Long-term Danger of Never Getting Over Disagreements (Matthew 12:22-32)**
4. Drop In Sermon on 4th Sunday "How to Respond to Intimidating Times"
5. Youth Service "Be Committed"

Statement: In order to protect your future you must change the way you think about "commitments"

**I. What Happens If We Refuse to Agree and Stay Divided
(Matthew 12:22-32)**

- A. We will be a divided house
- B. We will guarantee our long-term failure
- C. We will create an outcome that makes our disagreement look small (e.g. divorce, war, etc.)

Note:

- Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. [*The New International Version*](#) (Mt 12:25). (2011). Zondervan.

II. Disagreements That Are Hard to Let Go

1. Relationship Disagreements (They hurt me)
2. Business Disagreements (They cheated me)
3. Emotional Disagreements (I feel bad about me)
4. Physical Disagreements (Let's fight)
5. Disappointment Disagreements (You were sure "____") it would have worked out, but someone, some organization, or some government failed you



6. Political Disagreements (We see it from our side)

Question: How many rights do you think the other side should have?

7. Control Disagreements (We are tempted to feel we should control the narrative (based our religious or preference)

Closing: Pray for people working through a disagreement in one of these areas.

Next Time: How to Respond to Intimidating Times

Copilot's Response to my Question About Thinking On Both Sides of An Issue

Part 1: Five Ways Republicans and Democrats Can Respect Each Other and Think on Both Sides of Issues

1. Active Listening: Encourage members of both parties to genuinely listen to each other's perspectives without interrupting or immediately forming counterarguments. This helps in understanding the underlying concerns and values of the other side.

- Scripture: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19).

- Quote: "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." – Stephen R. Covey

2. Common Ground: Focus on shared goals and values, such as improving the economy, education, and healthcare. Identifying common ground can help bridge divides and foster cooperation.

- Scripture: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:25).

- Quote: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection." – Abraham Lincoln

3. Respectful Dialogue: Promote respectful and civil discourse, avoiding personal attacks and inflammatory language. This creates a more constructive environment for discussion.

- Scripture: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).



- Quote: "We can disagree without being disagreeable." – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

4. Empathy and Understanding: Encourage empathy by trying to understand the experiences and emotions of those on the other side. This can lead to more compassionate and informed decision-making.

- Scripture: "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

- Quote: "Empathy is about finding echoes of another person in yourself." – Mohsin Hamid

5. Bipartisan Initiatives: Support and participate in bipartisan initiatives and committees that aim to address issues collaboratively. Working together on specific projects can build trust and demonstrate the benefits of cooperation.

- **Scripture:** "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

Part 2: Five Additional Ways Republicans and Democrats Can Unite and Work Together

1. Education and Awareness: Promote education and awareness about the importance of bipartisan cooperation and the dangers of extreme partisanship. This can help create a more informed and engaged electorate.

- **Scripture:** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

- Quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

2. Shared Community Projects: Engage in community service projects that require collaboration between members of both parties. This can help build personal relationships and break down stereotypes.

- Scripture: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).

- Quote: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Mahatma Gandhi



3. Conflict Resolution Training: Provide training in conflict resolution and negotiation skills to politicians and community leaders. This can equip them with the tools needed to handle disagreements constructively.

- Scripture: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

- Quote: "Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." – Ronald Reagan

4. Transparent Communication: Foster transparent communication channels between parties to ensure that all voices are heard and considered. This can help prevent misunderstandings and build trust.

- Scripture: "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another" (Ephesians 4:25).

- Quote: "Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway." – Mother Teresa

5. Celebrating Diversity: Embrace and celebrate the diversity of thought and experience within both parties. Recognizing that different perspectives can lead to more robust solutions can foster a more inclusive political environment.

- **Scripture**: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

- **Quote**: "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization." – Mahatma Gandhi

By implementing these strategies, Republicans and Democrats can work towards a more respectful, cooperative, and united political landscape.

Source: Conversation with Copilot, 9/12/2024

(1) How to Reunite a Divided America: The Unum Test | TIME.
<https://time.com/5954170/partisanship-how-to-reunite-america/>.

(2) The two-party system and views of differences between the Republican
<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/08/09/the-two-party-system-and-views-of-differences-between-the-republican-and-democratic-parties/>.



(3) Partisans value respect, compromise in politics – especially from other

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/06/19/partisans-say-respect-and-compromise-are-important-in-politics-particularly-from-their-opponents/>.

(4) Can Democrats and Republicans in Congress work together U.S. 2022

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1356377/can-democrats-republicans-congress-work-together-us/>.