

Dealing with Conflict

November 19, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church

Titus 3:9-11

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Controversy & conflict is inevitable in this fallen world. Titus 1:1-2; 1:9; 1:13-14; 2:1; 2:15

Jesus - heart of the Gospel: John 14:6 the way, truth & the life Exclusive claim!

Premise 1: The Church is to maintain the truth of the Gospel

A. We must affirm that there is such a thing as knowable, absolute truth.

Are there many ways to God? All just as good?

Why does the Bible make SO MUCH of Jesus becoming flesh by being born of a virgin, suffering on this earth, then being crucified, buried and raised again on the 3rd day if there are multiple ways to God? Jn 14:6; 17:3,17

B. Truth Matters

Many like to deny that truth exists.

Consider: 2 pills - one poison, one cure – does truth matter?

Jesus: either Lord, liar, or lunatic- truth matters! Act 4:12; Jn 3:36

Emphasis on truth in Titus 1:1-2; 1:9; 1:13-14; 2:1; 2:15

C. Truth must be obeyed; not just known

Knowing truth is useless – James 2:19

Discussing religious truth is of little value - Titus 3:9

What matters is Christ and who He is and what He is to you!

Premise 2: Church Leaders are given by God to protect His Church and deal with divisive people.

A. Stirring up division is a sin issue.

- foolish discussions - things that have nothing to do with the power of the Gospel and how to obediently take it to others
- genealogies - perhaps gaining status because I came from the tribe of... or Gnostic ideas – if you just know this truth...
- quarrels about the law - if you do this God will be MORE please with you. The law is to show us what holiness looks like.

B. Certain issues are worth contending over and even separating




Focus on self or on the glory of Christ? Mt 22:37-40; 1 Cor 10:31

Fundamentals of the faith:

- 1) The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8-9)2)
- 2) The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27)
- 3) The Blood Atonement (Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12-14).
- 4) The Bodily Resurrection (Luke 24:36-46; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 15:14-15).
- 5) The inerrancy of the scriptures themselves (Psalms 12:6-7; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20).

C. Divisive sin must be confronted as an act of love for the glory of the Body
Titus 3:10– keep focus of Church on Glorifying Jesus & Gospel

- Why is it essential to maintain that spiritual truth is both absolute and knowable?
- If you claim that spiritual truth is absolute and knowable, critics will accuse you of being arrogant and intolerant. How would you respond to such charges?
- How can we know which issues are worth defending and, if necessary, dividing over versus matters where we should be patient and tolerant with those who differ?
- Why do so few churches practice church discipline? How can we practice it without becoming sinfully judgmental and unloving?
- Review and Discuss this _____

THE CATEGORIES	THINGS IN THAT CATEGORY	PRACTICE		COMMENTS
		positive	negative	
A Vital-Major-Essential	Doctrine	Practice		Scripture: Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 15:3,4
(heart, brain, liver, etc.) 	Authority of Scripture Sinfulness of man Attributes of God Salvation by grace Deity of Christ Atoning work of Christ Holy Spirit regeneration Second coming of Christ	Repent Believe Holiness Love unity Prayer Fruit of Spirit Worship	Pride Unbelief Blasphemy No love Immoral	—Fundamentals of the faith. —Massive Scriptural support. —All Christians agree on (not denominational distinctive). —Basis of local church membership. —Ministry emphasis (family, church). —What share with unbelievers. —Non-conformity is grounds for discipline or separation.
B Helpful—Important Not Essential	Doctrine	Practice		Scripture: II Tim. 3:17
(limbs, sight, hearing, etc.) 	Calvinism Premillennialism Covenantal theology Male leadership Church government Ecclesiastical separation Sacraments Charismatic gifts	Hear Word Read Word Prayer Lord's Day Tithing	Alcohol use Smoking	—Not fundamentals of the faith. —Scriptural support on both sides of issues. —All Christians do not agree on (denominationalism). —Not basis of church membership (but conformity often required of leadership). —Influenced to some degree by tradition and experience. —Less emphasis in ministry. —Not shared with unbelievers. —Non-conformity is not grounds for discipline or separation.
C Peripheral-Minor-Not Important	Doctrine	Practice		Scripture: Rom. 14:2,5,22
(hair, tonsils, appendix, etc.) 	Mode of baptism Formula of baptism Bible versions Foot washing Use of instruments in worship. Worship style, liturgy Function of civil government. Role of women	head covering proper dress long hair woman Lord's day practice homeschooling	dancing hair length medicine T.V. rock music eating pork caffeine birth control woman working	—“Convictions” not fundamentals. —Scriptural support is scanty, usually based on inferences or deduction based on principles. —Christians differ on (within denominations and churches). —Not basis of membership or fellowship. —Influenced in large degree by tradition and experience. —Least emphasis in ministry —Not shared with unbelievers —Non conformity is not grounds for discipline or separation.