

# Disagreeing Without Dividing

No Offense, But... - Part 3

March 23, 2025

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Would you personally invite someone to church?

[thebayouchurch.org/invite](http://thebayouchurch.org/invite)

What do I do when I disagree with someone?

**In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity. - Augustine**

*“<sup>1</sup>Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and **don’t argue** with them about what they think is right or wrong. <sup>2</sup>For instance, one person believes it’s all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don’t. And those who don’t eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. ... <sup>10</sup>So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ... <sup>12</sup>Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. <sup>13</sup>So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. <sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. <sup>15</sup>And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don’t let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. ... <sup>19</sup>So then, let us aim for **harmony in the church** and try to **build each other up**. <sup>20</sup>Don’t tear apart the work of God over what you eat.”* Romans 14:1-3; 10-15; 19-20 (NLT)

**Building others up > winning arguments**

*“<sup>1</sup>We who are strong must **be considerate** of those who are sensitive about things like this. **We must not just please ourselves**. <sup>2</sup>We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ didn’t live to please himself.”* Romans 15:1-3 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 8-10

**You can be right and still be wrong if your tone, your posture, or your heart lacks love.**

*“<sup>13</sup>For you have been called to live in **freedom**, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to **serve one another in love**. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”* Galatians 5:13-14 (NLT)

**When you disagree, prioritize the person over the preference.**

- 1. Categorize wisely.**
- 2. Value people over being right.**

**When you disagree, prioritize the person over the preference.**

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35 (NLT)*

**Series Summary:**

- **When there is conflict, lean in.**
- **When gossip sparks, put it out.**
- **When you disagree, prioritize the person over the preference.**

**Additional great passages:**

*“Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.” 1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)*

*“Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God’s presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.” 2 Timothy 2:14 (NLT)*

*“<sup>16</sup>Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. <sup>17</sup>This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus.” 2 Timothy 2:16-17 (NLT)*

*“<sup>23</sup>Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. <sup>24</sup>A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.” 2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NLT)*

*“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” James 1:19 (NLT)*

**Highlights from 1 Corinthians 8-10**

*“Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that ‘we all have knowledge’ about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.” 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NLT)*

*“Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much.” 1 Corinthians 8:2 (NLT)*

*“But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.” 1 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT)*

*“So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.”* 1 Corinthians 8:13 (NLT)

*“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 9:19 (NLT)

*“<sup>22</sup>When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup>I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.”* 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NLT)

*“<sup>23</sup>You say, ‘I am allowed to do anything’—but not everything is good for you. You say, ‘I am allowed to do anything’—but not everything is beneficial. <sup>24</sup>Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.”* 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (NLT)

*“<sup>25</sup>So you may eat any meat that is sold in the marketplace without raising questions of conscience. <sup>26</sup>For ‘the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.’ <sup>27</sup>If someone who isn’t a believer asks you home for dinner, accept the invitation if you want to. Eat whatever is offered to you without raising questions of conscience. <sup>28</sup>(But suppose someone tells you, ‘This meat was offered to an idol.’ Don’t eat it, out of consideration for the conscience of the one who told you. <sup>29</sup>It might not be a matter of conscience for you, but it is for the other person.) For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks? <sup>30</sup>If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it? <sup>31</sup>So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup>Don’t give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. <sup>33</sup>I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don’t just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. <sup>1</sup>And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”*  
1 Corinthians 10:25-11:1 (NLT)

Philippians 2:1-11

*“How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!”* Psalm 133:1 (NLT)

*“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. <sup>3</sup>And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?”* Matthew 7:1-3 (NLT)