

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

October 3, 2021

“How Christians Handle Controversy” #1

By Brian Meade

Controversy is defined as “The act of arguing a question about which differences of opinions exist; debate; dispute.” (World Book Dictionary)

One may be tempted to say off-hand that all controversy is wrong and unacceptable, but what does the Bible say?

Should Christians be passive and never argue about what they believe with others? Should they just avoid all situations where people disagree, and say something like, “Well, I just don’t believe in arguing or controversy.” And those words abruptly stop any further discussion.



But what is the right way to handle controversy in teaching truth to others? How effective would we ever be in converting anyone to the doctrine of Christ, if we stop whenever someone disagrees with us? It certainly would hinder reaching the lost with such an outlook in evangelism.

If we will just think for a moment why controversies take place, it will give us great insight in overcoming this passive view. Let’s look at some causes...

1. As Long As There Are Opinions, Speculations, And Alternative Viewpoints, There Will Be Controversy.

Notice in 1 Kings 18:21, “*And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.*”

Here is the time in Israel’s history that they were going back and forth between Jehovah and Baal as their Lord. But both could not be!

That is why Elijah called for them to finally decide between the two opinions! As we know the rest of the story, Jehovah won the contest by fire, and Baal was defeated miserably! (1 Kings 18:36-40)

The difference in opinions came about because God wants us to serve Him of our own free-will and choice. He does not force us to serve Him, and consequently, that will allow men to make the wrong choice at times.

We read in Matthew 16:13-14, *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

Here Jesus wanted to know from the disciples what men were saying about who He was. As we see, there was a wide range of opinions and thoughts about who Jesus actually was in the time He was here on the earth.

Jesus then asked His disciples in verse 15, “*But who do you say that I am?*” *Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”*

But as diverse as the opinions were, there was only one right answer, Jesus was “*the Son of the living God.*” That fact settled the controversy with the correct answer Peter gave to Jesus. We need not fear or avoid controversy — but know the truth from the opinions of men, and say it plainly like Peter.

2. As Long As Men Are Ignorant Of The Truth, There Will Be Controversy.

In Mark chapter 12, we read the encounter Jesus had with those who did NOT believe in the resurrection. *“Then some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: “Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man’s brother dies, and leaves his wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.” (Mark 12:18-23)*

Jesus had some needed words of rebuke for those Sadducees, *“Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.” (Mark 12:24-27)* Jesus did not seek to avoid the controversy, but very plainly and boldly spoke the truth that the Sadducees did not know and were ignorant of the truth concerning the resurrection. Their scenario in verses nineteen to twenty-three did nothing to disprove the resurrection, but showed their ignorance and error in understanding the Scriptures!

There are two types of ignorance concerning the Scriptures. First, there is the time when people have never studied the Bible and are completely ignorant or unaware of its teachings. This sort of ignorance is very common in the world, and leads people to believe a lot of things the Bible simply does not teach.

I once had a conversation with a lady that was very adamant in her belief that the saying, “Cleanliness is next to godliness” is definitely in the Bible somewhere. But she just couldn’t find the exact verse while we were talking that day, but she said it was definitely taught in the Bible.

The reason we have such controversies about more important matters is that some have never seriously studied for themselves topics such as: Baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38); Can a child of God fall from grace? (2 Peter 2:20-22); Is the Lord’s day the Sabbath or Sunday? (Acts 20:7); Is Jesus going to set up a kingdom when He returns or has He already established His kingdom? (Acts 1:6; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). And many more questions, topics, and misunderstandings that lead men to think some outrageous things in ignorance. All of this conflict could be resolved, if we could come together with an open Bible and an open mind to see what the Bible says. If men would only have the noble Berean attitude and be those who *“received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:30).*

Secondly, there is the willful ignorance that men choose to be ignorant of the truth. This is the kind that is harder to deal with because people have made their minds up, and very often, are not willing to budge in their beliefs — right or wrong!

Paul spoke of his own brethren in Romans 10:1-3, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”*

The ignorance in this case was a willful, self-imposed that Paul was praying to overcome to convert his Jewish brethren to the Truth about Jesus (See Vs. 4).

Anyone who even casually reads the book of Acts will see the controversies over the doctrine of the resurrection (Acts 4:1-3; 17:32; 23:6-10), the one true God and idolatry (Acts 14:11-18; 17:16-31; 19:23-41; 28:5-6), and especially concerning our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Acts 4:5-21; 5:17-42; 7:37-60; 8:1-4; 9:1-2; 12:1-4; 13:6-12; 13:14-51...).

Paul understood very well the problem of ignorance, as he would say about his former life, *“although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.” (1 Timothy 1:13)*

Paul did not let the disagreements, conflicts, and controversies stop him from trying to convert the hearts and minds of those who would listen (Acts 28:23-31). That’s how Luke closes the book of Acts with Paul still at work.

Memory Verse of the Week:

Acts 22:16 (NKJB)

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”



“Becoming Rooted And Grounded”

Lesson Text: **Colossians 2:5-8; Ephesians 3:17.**

I. What Is The Meaning Of Being Rooted & Grounded?

- 1. Rooted**— “To be established, conceived of as if a plant being or becoming fixed in the ground.” (*Logos*)
- 2. Grounded**— “To be or become strengthened, conceived of as a foundation that is laid. (*Logos*)

Agricultural Bible Verses: **Psalm 1:1-6; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; Matthew 15:13.**

II. What Are We To Be Rooted & Grounded In?

- Not By Sin Or Compromise- **1 Kings 14:15-16; Luke 7:24; Gal. 2:5.**
- Christ- **Colossians 2:7.**
- Faith- **Colossians 2:7; Acts 20:32; 1 Thessalonians 3:7-8.**
- Love- **Ephesians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12.**
- Truth- **2 Peter 1:12; Proverbs 23:23; Ephesians 4:11-13.**
- Hope- **Hebrews 6:19; Colossians 1:23; Jeremiah 17:7-8.**
- Righteousness- **Philippians 1:10-11; Proverbs 12:3; Job 27:3-6.**

III. What Are The Rewards Of Being Rooted & Grounded?

- We Know The Truth- **John 8:31-32; James 1:25.**
- We Stand Firm In Christ- **1 Corinthians 16:13.**
- Growing In Christ- **2 Peter 3:18.**
- Bearing Fruit In Christ- **John 15:5; Psalm 1:2-3.**
- Defense Of Truth- **Philippians 1:17; Jude 1:3.**
- Strengthening & Encouraging The Weak- **Hebrews 12:12-13.**
- We Are Saved By Christ- **Colossians 1:23.**

IV. What Are The Dangers Of NOT Being Rooted & Grounded?

- No Ability To Judge Truth From Error- **1 Timothy 4:3; Hebrews 5:14.**
- No Stability- **Ephesians 4:14; 2 Timothy 3:5-8.**
- No Loyalty To Christ- **Acts 20:30; 1 Timothy 4:1-3.**
- No Real Growth- **Matthew 13:5-6; 20-21.**
- No Real Work Accomplished- **Psalm 1:4.**
- No Defense of Truth— Compromise- **1 Kings 18:21; 2 John 10-11.**
- No Encouragement/Strength Given To Others- **Romans 15:1.**
- No Salvation, But Condemnation- **Hebrews 10:26-27.**

“Passing The Torch To Our Children”

Lesson Text: **Deuteronomy 11:18-23.**

What happened in **Judges 2:10?** _____

How did it happen? Can the same thing happen today?

I. What Does Passing The Torch Look Like?

- Abraham To Isaac To Jacob To The 12 Patriarchs- **Genesis 12—50.**
- Moses To Joshua- **Deuteronomy 34:5-9.**
- David To Solomon- **1 Kings 2:1-4.**
- Elijah To Elisha- **2 Kings 2:1-15.**
- Lois And Eunice To Timothy- **2 Timothy 1:5.**
- Paul To Timothy- **2 Timothy 4:1-5.**
- Notable Failures- Eli’s Sons- **1 Samuel 2:22;** Samuel’s Sons- **1 Samuel 8:1-5.**

II. What Can We Do To Pass The Torch To Our Children?

- Do Take Your Children To Church Regularly For Bible Study & Worship.
 - **2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 6:4.**
- Don’t Neglect Nor Be Ashamed To Talk Openly About Spiritual Things!
 - **Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Joshua 4:5-7.**
- Do Have Devotions At Home With Your Children.
 - **Deuteronomy 4:9-10.**
- Don’t Expect Everything To Be Taught By The Bible Studies At Church.
 - **Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:15.**
- Do Talk Positively About Worship And Things Done In The Assembly.
 - **Psalms 34:3; Colossians 3:17.**
- Don’t Complain, Backbite, Or Speak Evil Of Your Brethren.
 - **Philippians 2:14.**
- Do Be A Good Example Of A Genuine Christian To Your Children.
 - **Matthew 5:13-16.**
- Don’t Be A Bad Example Of Hypocrisy To Your Children.
 - **Matthew 23:1-4.**
- Do Emphasize The Spiritual Over The Physical Side Of Life.
 - **Matthew 6:33; John 6:27; Matthew 5:6.**
- Don’t Be More Worldly Than Spiritual In What We Rejoice In Life.
 - **2 John 2:15; Luke 16:15.**
- Do Encourage Them In Every Way Possible To Be Faithful To God.
 - **Deuteronomy 1:38; Acts 20:32.**
- Don’t Do Things To Discourage Them From Obeying God.
 - **Colossians 3:21.**

III. Why Pass The Torch To Our Children?

- It Is The Only Way The Church Can Continue
- The Church Needs Leaders And Workers.
- For Our Children To Be Faithful And Saved!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Gospel Meeting With Billy Randolph— October 17th to 20th. 7:00 PM.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Sam Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Becoming Rooted And Grounded"
Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page 70, Question #8

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Deuteronomy 11:18-23.
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Passing The Torch To Our Children"
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.
October 6th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
Page #33, Question #13
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

