

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Establishing Peace and Principles

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 15:6–21**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Peace in the church and in our hearts is built on Biblical theology.

Theology is the knowledge of God derived from Scripture, which is personally experienced and publicly expressed. It matters, because without it, we lose our mission and identity. We must pursue theological peace through engaging in debate, speaking courageously, seeking Scripture, and calling for unity. Ultimately, peace in our hearts and in our churches is found in God, because we are at peace with Him.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

1 Timothy 4:16, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Timothy 3:16, Romans 5:1, Isaiah 26:3, 2 Peter 1:2, 2 Peter 3:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has there been a time in your life when you loved God's Word more for the knowledge that it contains than for the God that it reveals (i.e. Trivia over Truth)? On the other hand, are there times when you would seek to avoid debates or confrontations about doctrine altogether?
2. When we get doctrine wrong, we are telling lies or half truths about God. Since none of us gets everything right, how do we know when to:
 - a. stand firm on an issue
 - b. allow for our differences (agree to disagree)
 - c. show deference for and abide by another person's view (as the Gentiles were told to abide by parts of the law for the sake of the Jews for a while), even if we disagree?
3. As a church, we hold to Christian orthodoxy. What are some of the issues that cause confusion in the church today, or pose new questions that we need to answer in our times? [for example: role of women in the church, how to welcome homosexual/transgender seekers, how to stand against abortion, etc...]
4. Peter courageously upheld God's word with humble boldness driven by love. When have you seen someone stand up for Biblical truth with similar humility, boldness, and love?