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RESOLVING DOCTRINAL & CHURCH DISAGREEMENTS

Jesus taught that the unity of His people is a testimony. It is a sign to the world that He is real, alive, and sent by the Father *(Jn 17:20–23).* Hence, unity is not optional, nor simply beneficial; it is missional and essential. The oneness of Believers reveals Jesus Christ to the world. Division weakens our collective witness and reduces our effectiveness in the world. So we must ensure any disagreements we have with others is addressed if our outreach and ministry to others is to be powerful and fruitful.

When disagreements do arise, the aim is not retribution or winning an argument, but restoration of unity and mutual understanding. The question is never who is right or wrong, but what is right and wrong.

Although working out disagreements may at times cause a temporary break in fellowship *(1 Cor 11:19, Rom 16:17-20, Titus 3:10),* when handled properly, disagreement over doctrinal and Church matters can actually strengthen the faith and relationship of those involved - as in the case of Paul, Barnabas and Mark *(Acts 15:36-39, 1 Cor 9:6, 2 Tim 4:11)*.

If the Believers involved have teachable hearts and value truth more than the comfort of avoiding correction, they can bring the matter of contention prayerfully before the Lord and work through it together with Scripture and fasting. In this posture, their differences become opportunities for shared growth; as the disagreement itself works to produce greater doctrinal clarity and deeper fellowship.

Rest assured, if we refuse to address our differences and simply say, *"You have your opinion and I'll have mine; let's agree to disagree or part ways,"* these unresolved issues will often become footholds the enemy will use to create factions and cause significant division within the Body of Christ.

Yet, through the work of the Holy Spirit and the authority of Scripture, disagreements among Christians can lead to genuine agreement, preserving unity rather than fracturing it.

When both parties remain open to seeking the Lord's guidance, someone's understanding and position will eventually be shaped by the voice of God through His Word. The disagreement will be resolved and unity maintained *(Acts 17:10–11, 18:24–26).*