



Part 2 “Walk the Walk” Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week Jeremy shared with us concerning the current negativity trend in how society interacts with itself. We live in a world that has increasingly become “Us against Them” and battle lines are drawn. In this new world, people seem to think that the way to win is to shout and insult the other side. That is a distinctly un-Christian viewpoint and the image of Christians has taken huge hits. The world sees a people that are fighting with themselves. How are we different from the world? Why should they be drawn to the Savior if His people are not being the “salt and light” that He told them to be?

Jeremy focused on how we are to be united. That the world needs to see unity when they look at us.

Does this mean that we are to always agree on every issue that is not specifically addressed in Scripture?

What issues have Christians disagreed on through the ages?

How much instruction do we get from Scripture concerning day-to-day Christian living?

How do we apply the Bible to a constantly changing world?

How should Christ followers approach controversial issues?

Into the Word:

Read 2 Timothy 2:23

What makes an argument foolish and how are we to respond to one?

Read 1 Corinthians 1: 10–17

What makes the argument Paul is addressing foolish?

What seems to be the atmosphere among the Corinthians?

What are they arguing about? Are their disagreements valid and important?

What was the outcome of their arguing?

Read Philippians 1:27

Does our unity as members of the body of Christ mean there will be no differences?

What happens to the importance of controversial issues when placed beside the gospel of Christ? Does this mean we are to avoid controversy? How is the gospel helped by openly discussing differences?

Read Acts 15:36–41.

What had John Mark done that the two men disagreed about?

How did Paul and Barnabas resolve their conflict?

Paul and Barnabas's conflict was not theological or ethical but it is an example of conflict between Christians. Discuss the emotions Paul and Barnabas may have been feeling (these are not described in the Bible). Was splitting up the best thing to do?

What were the results of Paul and Barnabas's separation? (Glance through Acts 16.)

Despite their disagreement, what was the goal that Paul and Barnabas kept striving for? How did they pursue that goal in their separate missions?

Apply The Word

Think about any controversial issues that have come up between fellow believers in the past. How were the issues handled? Would the believers have been seen as "salt and light" in our society?

Were the issues discussed fully and clearly? Or were they glossed over in order to preserve unity?

What was the emotional level of the discussions? Were they openly honest? Heated? Closed and tense?

What were the outcomes of the discussions?

Do you respect the views of your brothers and sisters in Christ—even those you don't agree with? Has a difference of opinion ever caused a rift between you and another Christian?

How have you learned from listening to the different opinions of fellow Christians?

Does a spirit of unity and fellowship pervade our church, even during times of disagreement? How can you encourage this spirit?