Just Drop It!

Mike Moriarty · Acts 15:36–41

INTRODUCTION

- Do you ever find yourself just asking them to just drop it? Quit bugging each other, just drop it when they have conflicts with each other.
- God is always the loser when Christians allow petty arguments or opinions to trump congregational unity.

1 This Conflict Was a Matter of Opinion

Acts 15:36–41; Colossians 4:10

- And there arose such a sharp disagreement so that they separated from each other.
- This conflict was a matter of opinion. It was a judgment call, not something ordered specifically by the Holy Spirit.
- Paul and Barnabas were not disagreeing over the content of their preaching, but over an incidental detail that had no bearing on doctrine.
- Rather than crippling the work of Paul and Barnabas, this conflict actually helped the spread of the gospel in the long run.

2 The Holy Spirit Did Not Side With Either

1 Corinthians 9:6; 2 Timothy 4:11

- The Holy Spirit did not side with one or the other, so neither should we.
- Both of them had valid, honest reasons for their decision, which shows that even when we may disagree on matters of judgment, nobody is being less Christ-like.
- They were able to get past their differences, they were able to drop it and go on with the Lord's work.
- Conflicts might have consequences, but the Christ-like person does not withhold affection and regard.

3 Be Careful Taking Sides

Matthew 18:15–17

- Christians will become offended on someone else's behalf or take a side in a matter that was none of their business in the beginning.
- If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you have gained your brother.
- Do not involve unnecessary people because that just encourages taking sides.
- So be careful taking sides because you only have one side of the story.

4 Holding On to Preconceptions About People

Titus 3:3; Ephesians 4:31

- Another impediment we face is holding on to preconceptions about people, whether it's because of their past or their family members.
- We cannot hold something against someone based upon their past behavior unless you know firsthand that it hasn't changed.
- If the example of Jesus teaches me anything, then I need to have room in my heart for my own brother or sister when conflicts arise.
- Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

5 Self-Centeredness Is the Main Culprit

James 4:1–2

- The main culprit I have found that causes problems and disagreements with brethren is self-centeredness.
- Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?
- The more self-centered our desires are, the more frustrated our response will be when those desires are blocked or denied.
- We may not use the word demand, but that is exactly what we are doing when we want our way, and if we don't get our way, we leave.

6 Waiting for Someone Else to Make the First Move

1 John 4:10–11; 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

- Maybe the problem is that you're waiting around for someone else to make the first move. Doesn't God's example mean anything?
- This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- God made the first move in reconciling us to him and now expects us to practice that same kind of love.
- Love suffers long and is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

THE CHALLENGE

If any of us has an issue with a brother or a sister or with the elders, any issue that is not based upon something scriptural, can I ask you to consider just dropping it? Give the person the benefit of the doubt.

MY NOTES