

There's Only You and Me and We Just Disagree

"The Life of Paul" episode 16

Acts 15:36-41

Admit it, good Christians fight. Over all kinds of things--money, and ministry, and people, how best to do this and that, and what we should and shouldn't do. You've seen some of these fights, maybe even been in a few. They're not pretty. Good thing for us God included a couple of fights between good Christians in the Bible, so we could get a clue. So that we would know how to fight fair. One of the best (and most embarrassing) donnybrooks in Scripture is in today's story. It spits out a half dozen practical lessons, with two "do it" applications apiece.

1. Even the most godly Xns can f_____ over nonbiblical issues. *comfort*

- So . . . a. Don't _____ out at conflict.
b. Disagree without becoming disagree _____.

2. Sometimes both sides are r_____! *wisdom*

- So . . . a. Try hard to see the other point of view.
b. Don't make everything b_____.

3. For leaders, the church should firmly set the bar _____. *standards*

* The Paul Task-Perspective

- So say . . . a. "We set the leadership bar high."
b. "Reliability is a requirement."

4. For failures, the church should gently go _____ to give 2nd chances.

* The Barnabas People-Perspective

compassion

- So say ... (a) "Only by grace is there _____ good in _____ of us."
(b) "Our job is to restore you, not judge you."

5. Sometimes God multiplies by d_____. *trust*

* The God Omniscient-Perspective

- So . . . a. Cool down, and look up.
b. Separate if necessary, for good and for God.

6. Both sides should move on, and move f_____. *maturity*

- a. Don't take it personally.
b. Get over it, and get on with life ... for God's glory.