

# PEACE MAKERS



*in a noisy world*

## *04 Disagreement Without Division*

Because Christ unites His people in the gospel, faithful peacemaking requires learning how to disagree without breaking fellowship.

### **EMBARK**

Tom and Sarah have both been part of the same church for years. They love the Lord, trust the Bible, and genuinely want to honor Christ. They've served side by side, prayed for the same needs, and tried to walk faithfully together in church life. However, a significant public issue has come up in their community. It's the kind of thing people talk about at work, see online, and hear about in the news.

Tom thinks, *"Christians need to be clear and courageous here. If we're quiet, we're compromising."*

Sarah thinks, *"Christians need to be careful and wise here. If we treat this like a gospel issue, we'll fracture the church."*

Neither of them is trying to abandon Scripture. Neither is denying the gospel. They're both trying to be faithful. But tension begins to grow. Tom feels disappointed that Sarah doesn't seem as concerned as he is. Sarah feels anxious that Tom is making a secondary matter feel ultimate. Assumptions begin to form. Conversations become guarded. They find themselves avoiding the topic, or worse, avoiding each other. And slowly, the harmony they once enjoyed feels strained.

1. What assumptions might each person be making?
2. At what point does disagreement begin to feel threatening?
3. What fears often surface in moments like this?
4. How do we distinguish between doctrinal compromise and differences of conscience?
5. What would faithful disagreement look like?

### **EXAMINE**

**READ Romans 14:1–4**

6. What kinds of disagreements does Paul address?
7. What warning does Paul give believers toward one another?

**READ Romans 14:10–13**

8. Before whom does each believer ultimately stand?
9. Why is judging another believer's conscience dangerous?

**READ 1 Corinthians 8:1–3**

10. How can knowledge become spiritually harmful?
11. What must govern Christian liberty?

**CHRISTIAN  
UNITY**

*is grounded in  
shared*

**SALVATION**

*not shared*

**OPINIONS**

## READ Ephesians 4:1–6

12. What realities already unite believers?

13. What responsibility are Christians commanded to pursue actively?

## EXPOSE

The New Testament assumes that sincere Christians will sometimes reach different conclusions in matters not directly commanded by Scripture. Christian unity is grounded in:

- one Lord
- one faith
- one gospel
- one shared salvation

Uniformity in every judgment, strategy, or cultural response is never presented as a condition of fellowship.

When secondary matters become tests of faithfulness:

- consciences are bound,
- suspicion grows,
- and unity fractures.

Peacemaking requires humility strong enough to distinguish conviction from ultimacy. Believers may hold strong convictions while still recognizing that fellow Christians ultimately answer to the same Lord.

## ENGAGE

### Group Activity – Respond as a Peacemaker (8–10 minutes)

NOTE: Keep this general... no names, no posts, no reenactments. Think patterns, not people.

*A fellow church member posts something online about a public issue that you strongly disagree with. Others from church begin commenting. Discuss:*

- What is your first instinctive reaction?
- What response would promote peace?
- What response would damage unity?
- What would a wise first message sound like... if you chose to respond at all?

*During conversation after church, someone confidently states an opinion you believe is unwise or mistaken. Discuss:*

- When is correction appropriate?
- When is patience wiser?
- What questions could you ask instead of arguing?

*You begin avoiding someone because disagreement feels uncomfortable. Discuss:*

- What danger does avoidance create?
- What might love require instead?

### For further discussion...

14. Why do cultural disagreements often feel spiritually personal?
15. How does remembering our shared citizenship in Christ reshape disagreement?
16. What does love require when convictions differ?
17. What would disagreement without division look like in our church??

## MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:3 (CSB) “Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”