

## We Are the Church: Sticking Together

*Dallas Siggelkow*

**Questions:** What is the most harassment you have received being a fan? Is it possible to disagree as followers of Jesus and still be in unity?

**Read** 1 Corinthians 1:10–13

**The divisions were not about what they believed.  
What they believed was not helping  
to solve the divisions.**

The 3 “c’s” of the Corinthian Conflict: Class, Clubs, Cliques.

**Question:** Do any of these ring true in our culture? How?

The 4 Groups of the Corinthian Conflict:

- The Paul Party
- The Apollos Party
- The Peter Party
- The Only Christ Party

**Questions:** What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of these 4 groups? Is it possible for “banner waving” to be harmless? Why?

**Read** 1 Corinthians 1:10 again. **Question:** How does understanding unity as “be made complete” shift how you read this verse?

**Sanctification:** The way that we live and treat others should increasingly reflect who Jesus is and what he has done in us.

**It’s impossible to be spiritually mature  
while remaining emotionally immature.**

Pete Scazzero

**Question:** What impact does it have to shift the focus of unity away from “agreement” and onto Jesus?

**Division has always been a problem among God’s  
people, and almost every NT epistle deals with this  
topic or mentions it in one way or another. Even the  
12 Apostles did not always get along with each other.**

Warren Wiersbe

Revisit the July series “Truth (or something like that)” on the church website at [generations.ca/live](http://generations.ca/live).

Find the article “7 areas to consider when you think you disagree with another Christian” on the “Next Steps and Study Guides” button at [generations.ca/live](http://generations.ca/live).

**Read** John 17:23

**Questions:** What impact does our unity or disunity as a church have on others around us? Is it possible to disagree and still be in unity? What is your next step in response to this?



## **7 points to consider the next time you think you have a possible disagreement with another Christian:**

(From the Blog of Frank Viola, January 14, 2023)

1. Go to them privately and ask them what they meant by what they said, did, or wrote or what they allegedly said, did, or wrote.

Jesus said to go to your brother/sister in private if we have an issue with them. Since we don't want to misrepresent others in public, going to them directly helps prevent this. And you would want the same treatment if the shoe happened to be on your foot.

About six months ago, I was reading someone's Facebook wall where they quoted a friend of mine who came out with a new book on evangelism. The entire thread was about what my friend may have meant or didn't mean. People got angry at one another. Some began blocking others. (These are Christians, mind you.) Finally, a woman jumped in and said, "Excuse me . . . but instead of questioning what he may have meant or didn't mean, why don't you just write him a message and ask him? He's on Facebook, you know." Her remark arrested everyone and you could smell the embarrassment. Amazingly, no one ever thought to even try to contact my friend and ask. If they had done so in the beginning, the whole issue would have been resolved and the carnage wouldn't have even begun.

2. When you go to another believer privately, ask them questions. Don't make accusations.

Again, put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself, "How would I want to be treated if this person was me and I had concerns or possible problems with them?" In my experience, I've found that accusations based on second or third-hand information are usually inaccurate. And they are often rooted in misunderstandings.

One time Jesus made a statement about one of His followers saying, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Because of this remark, a rumor spread among the disciples that the disciple Jesus was referring to would never die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" (John 21:22-23)

If Jesus — the perfect Teacher — was misunderstood by those who were in His corner, how much more does it happen to us?

3. Never, ever, evah, nevah judge the motives or intentions of another human being. To do so is to sin against them and against God.

You and I cannot read someone else's heart. While it's fine to question someone's judgment, it's wrong to judge their motives. "Love thinks no evil," Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13, but it always believes the best of others. Again, this is covered under Jesus' golden, "do unto others" commandment.

4. Never entertain gossip or slander about another sister or brother in Christ.

Again, treat others the same way you want them to treat you. Jesus not only commanded this, He said this commandment fulfills the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12). By the way, I've found that many Christians don't know what slander or gossip is (unless it's happening to them). They mistakenly think that if something is true or halfrue, it's not gossip or slander. Not so. Jon Zens' remarkable article on this subject is the best I've ever read. Every Christian should read it.

5. Seek peace with all you have. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone," Paul said in Romans 12:18.

We aren't going to agree on everything. In fact, I am unaware of any book that exists where all Christians agree with every word or understand every word the same way. That includes the Bible itself. None of us can claim immaculate perception. So we should be open for correction. But how you approach someone is incredibly important. How we treat one another while we disagree is just as important as the nature of our disagreement.

6. Remember that the world is watching how we Christians treat one another and talk about one another.

You can be the greatest evangelist on planet Earth in terms of being able to boldly witness to non Christians about Jesus. And you can blow the loudest trumpet about mission and discipleship. But if you treat your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ in ways that you would

never want to be treated yourself, then you nullify your evangelistic efforts. In addition, how you treat your fellow brothers and sisters is monumentally important to our Lord.

7. Remember Jesus' last prayer on earth before He gave His life for us.

It gives us a peek into what's foremost in His heart. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21).