



"...seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness..."

God First and Disagreement - May

Purpose

- Oftentimes when we disagree our focus turns inward. How we relate to and get along with one another greatly determines whether we are pleasing in God's sight or not. Keeping Him first helps us minimize self.
- Remembering Who is first, what is to take first place in our lives, remembering my place and relationship with this world – helps me deal better with conflict and disagreement. It keeps everything in perspective; folks, it's not about us. (**Mt. 6:33**)

Thoughts

- Note the example of Jesus (**Phil 2:1-15**) What are **verses 1-4** about? How does the example of Jesus apply? Note Paul's conclusion of the example of Jesus – **verses 12-15**. What applications should we make?
- I find it very interesting that God doesn't simply ask that we love one another. He adds a very significant qualifier to that – "love one another, even as I have loved you." (**Jn. 13:34-35**)
- Why does that last phrase make such a huge difference?

Lk. 6:33-36; Jn. 15:12; Eph. 5:2, Eph. 5:25 to husbands; I Jn. 3:16; I Jn. 4:11.
In every passage, what is the comparison?

- Note the example of Paul (**I Cor. 8:13, Ch. 9:1-7, 15, 19-23**)
- Beware the "my rights" attitude! (**Mt. 5:23-25**) How important is humility when dealing with disagreements?

Discussion

1. How does dealing with disagreement relate to the idea of keeping *God first*? How does **Mt. 6:33** apply? Who are we to be seeking first?
2. How will acknowledging the example of Jesus, especially the cross, help me keep *God first* when there is a disagreement or difference of opinion?
3. **Read Mt. 18:21-35.** Who does the king in the story represent? What is the point/application for us?
4. Why did Paul forgo certain "rights" that he had? What should I do when a brother and I have a disagreement – if it does not involve a matter of doctrine or sin?
5. **I Cor. 6:6-7.** Fill in the blank: "Why not rather be _____? Why not rather be _____?"
6. Can disagreement ever be righteous?