Agree
To
Disagree
so in Christ’s family. Agree to disagree? Can’t do it and please God.

5. False teachers - Revelation 2:20-21; Titus 1:9-11...entire households may be subverted...maybe an entire household of God...and bishops must seek to stop it. Agree to disagree? No way.

Introduction:

As a congregation of saints we are to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10). As a congregation of saints we are to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10)

so in Christ’s family. Agree to disagree? Can’t do it and please God.

behead of battle with Satan over bad attitudes;” “some are love

significant battles of the flesh, while others are still in the faith, while others have failed to grow;” “some have grown, some “babes,” some who have progressed nicely in

Typically be comprised of a mixed bag of folks;” “some full
disagreed on something -- But essentially, a congregation will

a congregation of two. Hell and even those two probably

all members agree 100% on every single thing. Unless it is

heck there is any congregation in the world that every sin-

But I wish to discuss with you in this session. I do not believe

some things in which they can agree to disagree. That is

the same interpretation of every Scripture? Or are there

greement must agree on everything? Then they must have

one accord. But does this mean that the members of a con-

pectibility of saints should be of one heart and soul. To be of

other passages such as Acts 4:32, each other need not a col-

Many believe that He was indeed the Christ (John 1:7). Many

Christ prayed that all believers be one, that the world might

As a congregation of saints we are to be perfectly joined

Conclusion:

This study has not been the exhaustive treatise on the sub-

ject. But, maybe less is more. Less is good. -- It is also not

very scholarly;” “something I am not capable of anyway.

Yet, our maybe less is more. Less is good -- It is also not

agree. No way.

of God; and bishops must seek to stop it. Agree to dis-

households may be subverted;” “maybe an entire household

5. False teachers - Revelation 2:20-21; Titus 1:9-11; “entire

please God.

so in Christ’s family. Agree to disagree? Can’t do it and
1. One not abiding in the doctrine of Christ -- II John 9-11...I think this umbrella would include acceptance of those who have not correctly obeyed the gospel. On this we cannot agree to disagree.

2. Unrepentant immorality - I Cor. 5. On this we cannot agree to disagree. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, idolatry, extortion, covetousness, etc. This brings shame and reproach upon the group...and it has a way of spreading like leaven to others. This cannot be permitted to abide in the group.

3. Sowing discord - Those factious, divisive and disruptive to the group - Romans 16:17-18...this is right after Romans 14! Also Titus 3:9-11. Even if a man is holding to the truth he can be excluded from the fellowship due to him jeopardizing the integrity and unity of the band of saints. It’s a judgment call...but one God enjoins upon the shepherds to make. On this there can be no agree to disagree.

4. Walking disorderly - II Thess. 3:6-15...Just as an earthly father may have to make a tough call on someone’s disorderly behavior being destructive to the others of the family, ing and generous and hospitable, while others are selfish...and on and on we go.

Before I go any further, may I say that oneness or unity may be maintained with such diversity...and let me illustrate. A husband and wife are said to be ONE and must act like it as well, right?...but does this mean that they see eye to eye on everything? Well, that question need not be answered. Ha! Does it even mean they cannot be outspoken in expressing such differences? Absolutely not. But, they are still united...or at least can be and should be. -- And when children are brought into the picture, you will likely find all kinds of differing opinions, but the family stay intact. The father might even say, “we have to all stick together...we are family” when things become strained. -- The church is a family...the household of God...we are brothers and sisters. I trust you can already see the application. But, let me specifically speak to it.

An eldership needs to be two or more...God has taught us by example His desire for such...but has not said why. Why
agree?

IV) What Areas Can We NOT Agree To Dis-agree?

might you think it wise? Most popular answer: “Two heads are better than one.” Right? What are you saying? That it is GOOD to have varying ideas...checks and balances...etc. Will a plurality of bishops ever have differing ideas pertaining to the operation of the congregation? Of course. But, must they always go forward unified in their decisions and leadership? Of course. When we had business meetings, we often had lots of ideas floated on some topic, but then a leadership of course, When we had business meetings, we must they always go forward unified in their decisions and actions. When a leadership of the congregation of course...But, will a plurality of bishops ever have differing ideas? GOOD or BAD ideas...chuckles and laughs...etc. Good or Bad ideas. You are better than me.” Right? Why are you saying? That it is mighty you think it wise? Most popular answer: “Two heads are better than one.”

And you know what else? If he should die before me and I eulogize him, I will speak with the greatest pride of him having gone home to be with Jesus. I will speak with the greatest pride of him having gone home to be with Jesus. And you know what else? If he should die before me and I eulogize him, I will speak with the greatest pride of him having gone home to be with Jesus. And you know what else? If he should die before me and I eulogize him, I will speak with the greatest pride of him having gone home to be with Jesus.
etc. There have been and still may be those here who have those views, but do not have any qualms in us not doing so. I have asked a number of times when someone has requested membership here...do you have any problem in us not doing that here? Will you be causing problems over us not doing so? So far, so good. It might be of interest to you that I have done this very thing myself...for 2 years while I lived in England I ate of one loaf and drank of one container...though I think it wrong to require it that way as others there thought. I agreed to disagree.

Speaking of the Lord’s Supper, there are those who think the Lord’s Supper should not be provided to only a few on Sunday evenings...but if the elders of the congregation see fit to do so, then no problem. They agree to disagree. They may choose not to participate themselves if unable to eat in the morning, but have no problem with others having the right to follow their conscience in doing so. They never raise a stink over it. -- There may be some who feel women ought to wear an artificial covering when in the church services and others who do not...I can sit beside my father, Jim Sasser, who has differs with me on this subject and disagreements over meat sacrificed to idols... or bought in the marketplace possibly having been sacrificed to idols...or eaten at a supper, where the host may or may not have offered it earlier to an idol (I Cor 8 & 10)...but no instructions to disfellowship. Some had serious doubts about the resurrection (I Cor 15)...no instructions about breaking off ties with such...there were even abuses of the communion (I Cor 11)...and still no talk about removing such from their number! These problems were not ignored, but at least for awhile their presence did not compromise other brethren. Generally, the severing of ties would be when and if behavior became destructive. More on this as I go along.

I know it scares some people to differ. I am not sure I know why that is. Maybe it is due to thinking if I allow for a difference, then I might be allowing for the possibility of me being wrong...Or maybe it is because we feel it will appear weak to allow for such...Or maybe something else. -- Raise your hand if you have ever changed your mind on the meaning of any passage of Scripture over the years since your baptism. Does that mean that back then you were a pagan and should have been removed from the church? Of
of church funds for human organizations, social functions, etc., just as long as no one feels it must be done and respect is given for the direction the elders accept. Then after awhile their hearts can just be allowed to continue. And time. This is the way it ought to be. Now, some might say, "We want to embrace him gladly and for possibly a long time. Well, someone now might be you back then... and YOU might even change again in the future. We just are not static in spiritual learning and neither is anyone else... we are all at various measures of faith and growth. It is actually God's will that we have a sort of one-room schoolhouse, wherein we have spiritual growth at various levels... we can all grow at various measures of faith and growth. If we are not all able to be in spiritual learning and neither is anyone else... someone now might even change again in the future. We course not!"
rulings for every member...especially in all those many areas of judgment and application of principles. They write creed books spelling out what you must believe if you are a member of their church. You know the problem with all that? God does not allow for it. So, there are going to be differences...and we would do well to be okay with that and maybe actually see it as refreshing liberty in Christ...rather than a frightening disillusionment. We are all made priests, responsible for ourself before God.

But, he also mentions wine in 14:21. So, there might be personal judgments about things which we may not normally associate with religion...questions of individual conscience...things that do not affect anyone else whatsoever...but on which we differ with others. Along these lines might be questions concerning a Christian serving in the armed forces...smoking tobacco...what are acceptable lengths of hair on men...and women...the length of hemlines, and 101 other such matters. There may even be differences on questions such as abortion, euthanasia, and artificial insemination. Interpretations may differ...maturity levels may cause differences...applications of principles elapsed for growth? Not I. Read Hebrews 5:12-13...here we are told of some who had

continued as babes well past when they should...but notice two things...it is an inspired writer saying so and he also still recognizes them as saints in assembly (10:25). So how long do we agree to disagree with babes in Christ with whom more mature Christians differ in knowledge...and likely practice? I don’t have a definitive answer for that. No one does. We have no one inspired to make that judgment...but I do recognize it can go on a long time. -- Anyway, most all have no problem here. But, just be sure you register it...you are agreeing to disagree with a brother in your fellowship. So it can be done.

II) Those weak in the faith

Romans 14 addresses this subject...Are we permitted to agree to disagree here? Not only is it permissible..it is commanded! Read 14:1...Receive...accept...If you consider yourself strong in the faith...knowledgeable in the
day (5-6)...drinking no wine is implied (21)...something it seems Timothy was doing, I might add (I Tim. 5:23). -- From other places in the NT, circumcision was an issue, eating meat offered to idols potentially made for problems. Speaking of circumcision... it was only a problem when it was pushed on people or made a requirement of salvation. Otherwise, Paul says it matters not one way or the other. He even had Timothy circumcised for the expediency of it. -- Likewise foods...it became a huge problem when people began forbidding it (see I Tim. 4:3). Otherwise, it would have been fine.

Some of these had religious import to some folks...but none to others. I think today of things like participation in Christmas, Halloween, Easter, etc. Agree to disagree? Sure! BTW, Why do we disagree? Because we have differing brains. We do not all think alike. And why do we not all think alike? Cultural backgrounds may cause differences. Varying religious backgrounds may cause some to have differing views of these things. -- Some man-made religious bodies have tried to circumvent this “problem” and empower one or more leaders of all their churches to make gospel...then one evidence is ability to bear with those who are weaker. Does this mean we cannot discuss the differences? Under some conditions I think further education can take place...but it will likely be very gradual. The warnings are actually to the contrary...see 14:1 again...no continual disputing...15:1 says BEAR with their scruples...Paul tells Timothy there are some topics which need to be avoided...why? They only gender strife - II Timothy 2:23-24....they lead to quarreling...a no-no for saints. I will come back to this later...the idea of causing discord among brethren.

Let me first dispel one idea some might have...Paul is not addressing the man who is weak in his own faith...this might be the new convert or one who has just not grown in the faith as he should...this we have already spoken about in the previous point...but this is one weak in THE faith. The man himself may be very conscientious...very faithful...never miss a church service...be zealous for God. Why weak? The inspired apostle lays down the law of Christ on the matter in 14:14...making food regulations is a weak position. He gives other examples ---respect of a holy