

- Be just judges (see also, John 7:24)

ESV **Matthew 7:1** "Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶ "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."

Faithful Followers (for example, see Matthew 10)

- Jesus brought a sword (see also, Luke 2:34; John 1:11; 7:43; 10:19)

ESV **Matthew 10:34** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

ESV **Matthew 11:6** "...blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

- Following him requires self-denial

ESV **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"

- You may be subject to rejection by others (see also, John 9:34; 12:42-43)

ESV **John 15:18** "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

- You may need to disassociate from others (see also, 1 Corinthians 5)

ESV **Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

What about his teaching on love and unity?!

ESV **John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

ESV **John 17:20** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Danny Capon, *Pastor*

A Theology of Disagreement

No. 4 | The New Testament and Disagreement, pt. 1

Selected Scriptures

Review

A Theology of Disagreement

We can disagree about what **is** (reality).
 We can disagree about what it **means** (interpretation).
 We can disagree about what is **right** (righteous).
 We can disagree about what is **best** (wisdom).
 We can disagree about what we should **care** about (values).
 We can disagree about what we should **want** (desires).
 We can disagree about what we are **okay** with (submission).

- A disagreement is a situation in which two parties do not have the same opinion.
- A disagreement occurs, most observably, because no two parties are exactly the same and both parties are naturally morally corrupt.
- A disagreement may not initially be morally consequential or result in immoral conduct between two parties.
- A disagreement may also start out immorally by one or both parties, and proceed quickly to conflict or a range of other relationally-charged actions.

The New Testament and Disagreement, pt. 1

What do we see in the New Testament that may contribute to our understanding of disagreement and our handling of disagreement?

Disagreement in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

What do we see in the Gospels surrounding Jesus when it comes to disagreement?

(What did Jesus do with disagreement? Did he avoid disagreement as much as possible? Was he a relational pushover? Did he clamor for disagreement around every corner? Was he a pushing-the-envelope rebel? Was he all nice? Was he all antiestablishment?)

- **Jesus, as an example**—how he engaged people

People disagreed with him:

- His Hometown

unbelief

ESV **Matthew 13:53** And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at

him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

- The Pharisees (see also, Matthew 9:1-34; 12:1-14) **tradition**

^{ESV} **Matthew 15:1** Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." ³ He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ⁵ But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is given to God,' ⁶ he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

- Peter (see also, Matthew 26:30-35) **worldliness**

^{ESV} **Matthew 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

- The Disciples **sensibilities**

^{ESV} **Matthew 26:6** Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸ And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?" ⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

He disagreed with people:

- His Family (see also, Luke 2:41-51; John 7:1-13)

^{ESV} **Matthew 12:46** While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁷ ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

- His Disciples (see also, Matthew 14:13-21)

^{ESV} **Matthew 16:5** When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." ⁸ But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹¹ How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then

they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- The Chief Priests (see also, Mark 11:15-18; John 2:14-16)

^{ESV} **Matthew 21:12** And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³ He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

- The Sadducees

^{ESV} **Matthew 22:23** The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.' ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ So too the second and third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ After them all, the woman died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her." ²⁹ But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

- **Jesus, as a teacher**—how he taught people

Virtuous Conduct (for example, see Matthew 5-7)

- Be peacemakers

^{ESV} **Matthew 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- Be distinct from the world

^{ESV} **Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- Be non-retaliators

^{ESV} **Matthew 5:38** "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.