

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

21 June 2015

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Enthusiasm (John 4:27f)

### A.M. Lesson:

God's role for fathers (Ephesians 4:21f)

### P.M. Lesson:

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 13)

### Wednesday:

Paul: the minister to the Gentiles (Romans 15:14f)

### Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

### Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	11:00 A.M.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2  
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

## Is this a hill to die on?

Jack Dodgen, Think Magazine, May 2015

I've been given several pieces of sound advice over the years. Perhaps the best piece of advice I've ever been given is "Pick your battles. Not every hill is a hill you need to die on."

I love the Internet because of all the ministry opportunities that it affords this generation of Christians. It's never been easier to reach the masses with the Word of God. On the flip side, it's never been easier to start fights and tear people down. Here's an activity for those of you near a computer. Open up your Internet browser and head over to YouTube. Look up a religious discussion (something like a sermon, or even better a Christian/Atheist debate). Don't watch the video. Just scroll down to the comment section and read some of the discussions there. What do you see? Disagreements, vitriol, insults and so much more.

To put it a little more poetically, we see death, and not just dead people here or there, there is death on every hill. There is no listening to the thoughts of others, only name-calling and

excessive CAPITALIZATION to get their point across. Isn't that the problem?

Our culture has so much trouble disagreeing today because it's all about having our voices heard. Twitter, blogs, etc. are all just megaphones created to get our opinions and thoughts out to the world. These resources teach us to promote and not to receive. My opinion is perfect, and everyone else would agree with me if they were as enlightened as I am. My beliefs are always correct and so I argue and insult. I fight every battle and die on every hill.

Our culture is one of severe disagreement, and as usual, the Bible calls us to a much higher standard.

Christians are not free from the practice of disagreement. The church started on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and it didn't take long before the people involved found themselves disagreeing with one another.

In Acts 6, there arose a disagreement between the Hellenists and Hebrews because the Hellenist widows were being neglected in the daily distribution (6:1). The complaining got so bad that the Apostles had to step in and help them figure this situation out (Acts 6:2-3).

Ultimately, this disagreement was handled by some men being appointed to leadership positions.

When Christians disagree, they need leadership or a third party to step in. Sometimes the best thing an argument needs is for someone on the outside to come in and help the arguing parties make the right decision.

Later on in the book of Acts, we see traveling companions Paul and Barnabas entrenched in a “sharp disagreement” (15:39). Barnabas wanted to take mark with them, and Paul didn’t, so the two split. Later on in 2 Timothy 4:11, the very man that Paul disliked is listed among those that are very useful for his ministry.

When Christians disagree, they need to take some time away from each other. Disagreements often lead to emotions running high, and when emotions run high, anything can happen. In fact, emotion can contribute to disagreements escalating far beyond where they ever should have been. Sometimes it’s good to take some time apart and cool off a little before trying to resolve the issue.

Just a couple chapters later in the book of Acts, we read about the evangelistic duo of Priscilla and Aquila. During their travels, they ran across a preacher named Apollos. Apollos as described as being a fantastic speaker, but he was off on his theology a little bit (Acts 18:24-25). Priscilla and Aquila pulled him aside and addressed his error with him calmly and privately (18:26). he changed his beliefs and became a great force for good in God’s kingdom (18:27-28).

When Christians disagree, they need to calmly approach one another. it’s important to note here that this particular disagreement took place over a doctrinal matter. Notice however that Priscilla and Aquila didn’t go write Apollos up in some paper or blast his name as a “false teacher” on Facebook. They pulled him aside, spoke with him privately, and calmly reasoned with him.

Our culture encourages and provides opportunity for disagreement unlike anything we’ve ever seen before. It can sometimes be tempting to join in with everyone else and react harshly and violently when we disagree with someone. Don’t give in to that temptation. When Christians disagree, whether it be a ministry (Acts 6), a matter of opinion (Acts 15), or a matter of doctrine (Acts 18), we ought to handle it as calmly and godly as we can. Christianity isn’t about disagreeing, but about living a life pleasing to god. Disagreements may get in the way of that goal from time to time, but they should never stop us from fulfilling it.

## ***News:***

Mike Cavassos’ twin brother Mark is receiving treatment for a heart aneurysm. His heart condition is being aggravated by other serious physiological problems.  
Floyd Dodd is receiving treatments for cancer  
P.J. Waller is expected to have spinal disk surgery in July.

## ***Prayer List:***

*Hattie Hedrick—poor health*

*Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*

*Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains*

*Janet Radar—nursing home*

*H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia*

*Mike Cavasos—constant pain, foot surgeries*

*Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease*

*Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*

