

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: "Dealing with Difficult People"

Sermon Series: Putting the Church in Order (The Book of Titus)

Sermon Text: Titus 3:9-15

OPENING QUESTION

1. What is a petty or pointless argument you've been a part of?

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Titus 3:9-15)

Read Titus 3:9-11

2. In v9, what does Paul want Christians to do regarding certain controversies? How does this fit with what he said in places like Titus 2:15 and 3:8?
3. In v10, what are the steps with dealing with divisive people? How does this compare with how people usually deal with divisive, petty people?
4. How does v11 describe a divisive, petty person? Why is it best to avoid this person after confronting them as discussed above?

Read Titus 3:12-15

5. What are some of the good deeds Paul wants Titus to do?
6. How does doing good and living productive lives help us avoid foolish controversies and divisive people?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

7. How should you respond to someone, especially a church leader, who makes the case that you're being petty and divisive over a pointless issue?
8. What are some issues that you've considered important but perhaps are not worth arguing over?
9. What are some ways you can meet the needs of others and in doing so, help you avoid pointless arguments?

ADDITIONAL STUDY (Reading and thinking beyond this passage)

10. Looking back through Titus, Christians are instructed about which issues are crucial and which ones are not. What are issues that you may have thought were not that important but Paul insisted they were?
11. How does the gospel balance discerning which issues are worth arguing over with doing good deeds?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"But avoid foolish controversies... because these are unprofitable and useless... Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives." (Titus 3:9, 14)