



THE GRACE AWAKENING

THE GRACE TO DISAGREE . . . AND PRESS ON

ACTS 15:36–40



The Heart of the Matter

Having a grace state of mind doesn't mean life automatically becomes a super-harmonious downhill slide. Embracing grace doesn't change our address from the real world to Fantasyland. Even though we, in grace, pursue righteousness and peace and joy and commit to building up one another in love, we will still face conflicts on occasion. We will still have to live with disagreements. Human nature, being what it is, will occasionally get in the way. Opposing opinions will surface, family members will see things differently, and coworkers will clash, even when both parties desire to do the will of God. As people of grace, our goal is not to force everyone to agree but to press on in spite of disagreements.



Discovering the Way

1. Things We Agree on Regarding Disagreements

We can all agree on the following: disagreements are inevitable, even the godly will not always agree, every disagreement includes two ingredients (an issue and viewpoints), and in most disagreements each side has valid points.

2. A Disagreement between Two Godly Leaders (Acts 15:36–41)

Scripture presents us with a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas—a disagreement which began over an issue involving two opposing points of view and ended with a decision to separate permanently.



Starting Your Journey

How can we model grace in disagreeable times? First, always leave room for opposing viewpoints. Second, if an argument must occur, don't assassinate. Third, if you don't get your way, get over it. And fourth, sometimes the best solution is a separation.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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