



Sermon: A Church In Conflict | By Pastor Tracy Pounders | November 6, 2016

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus and His disciples didn't give sermons about what they did not believe. Instead they spoke about what they did believe. How can we make a difference instead of just making a point?

**Opening Prayer:** Jesus, help me to understand how my approach to a discussion can impact my influence. Help me to make a difference instead of just a point. Amen.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** *The focus: We can make a point by making a difference.*

1. Pastor Tracy said Jesus and Paul tended to create more relationships with those whom they disagreed with. Why would they strategically do this?
2. In His ministry, Jesus was not concerned with guilt by association. Jesus spent time with those living in sin. Why is this important for us to consider in our relationship building today?
3. Pastor Tracy explained that it is easier to make a point than to make a difference. How can we make a difference instead of making a point in our disagreement with others?
4. Jesus and Paul avoided debates that took their focus away from their primary mission to share the Gospel. They knew it best not to respond in some cases. Why should we avoid divisive questions?
5. Why is it important that Christians not judge non-Christians for acting like non-Christians?

## THINKING FORWARD

It is easy to share our uncensored opinions when we disagree with someone. Our goal is to get our point across. However, we make a bigger point when we make a difference. Jesus avoided division from those he wanted to influence. Continue to honor God in your disagreements by maintaining your sense of influence.

## VERSE TO GO

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5 - 6)*

**PRAYER:** Jesus, help me to make a point by making a difference and maintaining my influence with those around me.