***Controversial Things*** 11-7-21

*Bottom Line: Winning an argument is never more important than representing Jesus to others.*

**Introduction:**

 A. How many times have you found yourself in a heated discussion with someone about a controversial subject?

 1. I have had people be unkind, mean-spirited, angry, and hateful, and that was before I left the church building.

 2. How can Christians be un-Christlike about anything?

 B. We live in a time when people don’t know how to agree to disagree.

 1. To disagree is to be a hater? Generalized and labeled.

 2. We non-confrontational types, try to just be quiet!

 C. What do you do when someone wants to have a discussion about something controversial? Run? Refuse?

 D. Jesus was the master of dealing with controversy and personal attack.

 1. Healing on the Sabbath? How terrible!

 2. Question his authority after cleansing the Temple.

 Luke 20:1-8, Question: John’s baptism, heaven or men?

 E. Some simple things to remember about dealing with others about controversial subjects. Two important truths!

 1. It is not about having all the answers!

 2. It is never okey to be abused, threatened, or intimidated

 F. Three key concepts: Purpose – Process – Position

**1. Purpose! Why are we having this conversation?**

 A. Conflict or communication!

 B. James 1:19, *“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”*

**2. Process! How should we carry out this conversation?**

 A. Helping someone understand and learn. Sharing!

 B. Number one goal is listening! It is not about agreeing!

 C. No judging! James 2:12-13

**3. Position! What do I say?** What about God’s truth?

 A. Our job is to elevate God not ourselves!

 1. God must be glorified!

 2. We MUST be Jesus for them! 1 Peter 3:15-16

 3. We MUST love them no matter how much we disagree!

 4. We can and will grow through the experience whether we are sharing the truth or simply listen.

**Conclusion:**

A. Jesus and the women at the well. Classic discussion over controversial subjects. No judgement only help!

B. We are not Jeopardy champions w/ all the answers! We are fellow well sitters needing a drink!

C. It is absolutely okay to say, “I don’t know” or “I am not sure.” It is also okay to say, “Let’s study this together and keep talking!”

D. Matthew 5:16, We are shining lights not spotlights!