

Difference between discovery and negotiation

What are some things we **discover**?

What are some things we **negotiate** (or debate or argue)?

When might we get the two confused? For example...

- **Debating** the time the sun will rise tomorrow
- Try to **discover** what movie to watch

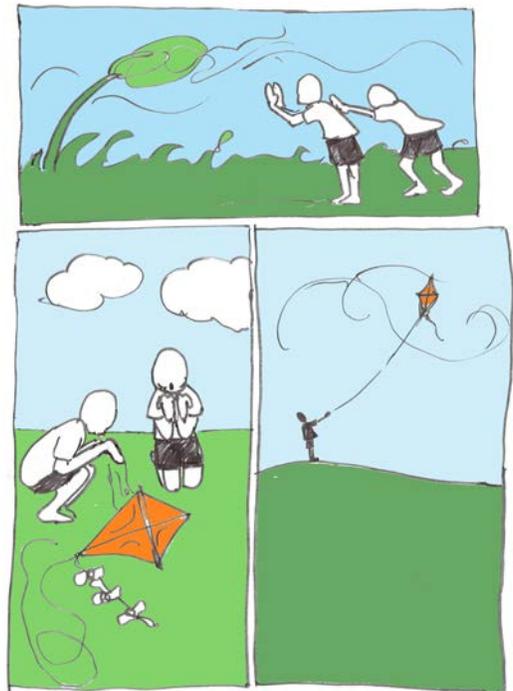
What should we do as a church as we work out our plans?

- Negotiate (debate/argue)?
- Discover?
- Something else?

Growing Together Under Jesus

Acts 11:1-18

Chinese: page 1784
Spanish: page 1401
Brown: page 1103
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Cultural Setting

- Jewish people wanted to maintain their distinction from the nations (**Gentiles**)
 - Food and fellowship were key strategies
 - Common among those who are in the minority
- Jewish people didn't like or trust **Romans**
 - Common among those who are oppressed

God's work with nations and peoples

Jews Apparent Old Testament focus
Jesus' focus. All of the Apostles & first Christians



Added cautiously

Samaritans "Half-Jewish". Added with some hesitation



Strong objections. So how?

Final Vision of Christianity:

Every nation ("Gentiles"), people, tribe, and language with one voice, praising God in Christ **together**

Cornelius
 Gentile, Roman army officer
 Worshiped God of Israel
 Not welcomed by Jewish Christians
 → Angel said: "Send for Peter"

Simon Peter
 Jewish Christian
 Leader of Christian church
 Avoided Gentiles
 → Angel said: "Go to Cornelius"

Peter told the story of Jesus as Judge and Savior
 The Holy Spirit came on Cornelius and his household
 Peter accepted them & baptized them as full Christians
 Jewish Christians were hesitant, then they accepted Gentiles

Acts 11:1-18

- 1-3: People hear about Peter going to Gentiles, & criticize
- Gentiles **accepting** the Gospel was big news!
- 4-10: • Closer to Jerusalem = more careful about rules
- 11-12: • People often only repeat (out loud and in their heads) the worst of what they hear about others
- 13-14: • Food and fellowship were key ways
- 15-17: • to ensure that they kept their identity
- 18:

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Acts 11:1-18

1-3: People hear about Peter going to Gentiles, & criticize

Retelling the story:

- 4-10: • Vision: Don't call impure what God has made clean
- 11-12: • Peter told an "orderly" account (like Luke) that was designed to help them → Kindness not judgment!
- 13-14: • Peter expresses the objections of his hearers as his own
- 15-17: • His goal is to help them believe what he believes, not merely to submit to his authority
- 18: • Ending the Old Testament ritual laws was **God's** idea, not **Peter's**
- That was hard to accept!
- God doesn't do another miracle; uses Peter's story

Acts 11:1-18

1-3: People hear about Peter going to Gentiles, & criticize

Retelling the story:

- 4-10: • Vision: Don't call impure what God has made clean
- 11-12: • Command: Go without hesitation ("criticism")
- 13-14: • Perfect timing is seen as God's doing
- 15-17: • Going to the Gentile's house was **God's** idea, not **Peter's**
- 18: • Since Peter was the "rock" upon which Jesus said He would build His church, Peter is the key person to receive this command

Acts 11:1-18

1-3: People hear about Peter going to Gentiles, & criticize

Retelling the story:

- 4-10: • Vision: Don't call impure what God has made clean
- 11-12: • Command: Go without hesitation ('criticism')
- 13-14: • God's preparation of the Gentiles
- 15-17: • God told Cornelius to expect salvation for **all** who were with him
- 18:
 - That's why he filled his house to hear Peter!
 - Speaking the Good News to bring salvation was **God's** idea, not **Peter's**
 - Cornelius brought people to hear the Gospel

Acts 11:1-18

1-3: People hear about Peter going to Gentiles, & criticize

Retelling the story:

- 4-10: • Vision: Don't call impure what God has made clean
- 11-12: • Command: Go without hesitation ('criticism')
- 13-14: • God's preparation of the Gentiles
- 15-17: • God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles
- 18:
 - Giving the **same** gift of the **same** Spirit in the **same** way to the Gentiles was God's idea not Peter's
 - Never oppose God!

Acts 11:1-18

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Retelling the story:

- 4-10: • Vision: Don't call impure what God has made clean
- 11-12: • Command: Go without hesitation ('criticism')
- 13-14: • God's preparation of the Gentiles
- 15-17: • God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles
- 18: Those who had criticized stop objecting & praise God!
 - They genuinely reached this conclusion in awe
 - **God gives repentance** that brings life to each one who believes, of any people

The Big Idea

Jesus is the head of His church
 and the Spirit is the life of His church
 and He works through leaders and all of the people
 who all have to learn and grow
 together

Resisting the wind is pointless!
Resisting God is just as pointless



Resisting the wind is pointless!
Resisting God is just as pointless

Trying to manufacture wind is pointless
Trying to replace God with human effort in the church is just as pointless!!



Resisting the wind is pointless!

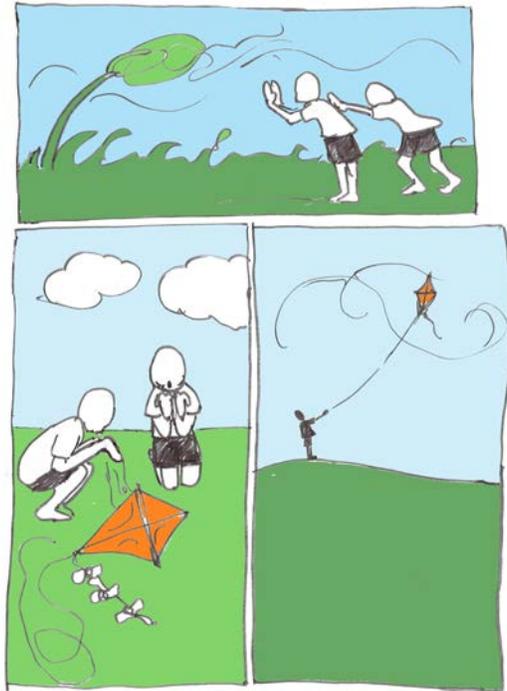
Resisting God is just as pointless

Trying to manufacture wind is pointless

Trying to replace God with human effort
in the church is just as pointless!!

Being directed and empowered
by the Spirit of God
brings peace, joy, and fruitfulness!

“You will receive power when the
Holy Spirit comes on you” *Acts 1:8*



“But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?”
Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, **Simon** son of Jonah, for this
was not **revealed** to you by flesh and blood, but **by my
Father** in heaven. And I tell you that you are **Peter**, and on
this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades
will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom
of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in
heaven.”

Matthew 16:15-19

The Big Idea

Jesus is the head of His church
and the Spirit is the life of His church
and He works through leaders and all of the people
who all have to learn and grow
together

Application

Be humble & Have peace

- Jesus is the **head** of the church. It belongs to Him.
 - Humans are **all** under the head (Jesus)
 - He decides who is welcome: the same Gospel for everyone

Jews demand **signs** and
Greeks look for **wisdom**,

but **we preach Christ crucified:**

a **stumbling block to Jews** and
foolishness to Gentiles,

but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks,

Christ the **power** of God
and the **wisdom** of God.

**Jesus' perfect death
and resurrection
purchased eternal life
in relationship with
God for all who
believe in Him**

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Application

Be humble & Have peace

- Jesus is the **head** of the church. It belongs Him.
 - Humans are **all** under the head
 - He decides who is welcome: the same Gospel for everyone
 - We are poor judges of people's importance in the church
- Jesus is the **builder** of His church
 - Even the greatest powers of evil cannot stop it!
 - We often fail to see God's power and Jesus' work
 - We are poor judges of human contributions to God's work

Humility: rightly see myself and my relative (un)importance

Peace: Jesus will protect and build His church for His glory!

Application

Be humble & Have peace

Discern (learn) the work of Jesus together

- **Revelation:** What God **has said**
 - The Bible is the final authority for the church
- **Experience:** What God **is doing**
 - God works in and through experiences
 - ***Yet He never contradicts the Bible***
- **Listening:** What God **is saying** through the Holy Spirit
 - ***Yet He never contradicts the Bible***
- **Together**
 - “The congregation is the highest governing authority under Christ for the local church.” (Ev. Free Church)

The Big Idea

Jesus is the head of His church
 and the Spirit is the life of His church
 and He works through leaders and all of the people
 who all have to learn and grow
 together

Shaping our church on this idea...

What should we do as a church as we work out our direction and plans?

- Together understand and follow Scripture
- Together watch what God is doing
- Together listen to the Spirit's leading

So...

- Study & obey the Bible together
- Serve & observe together
- Worship & pray, and listen to God and each other together
- **With humility, peace, and confidence in Christ**