**Agreement**

**Agree with one another, live in peace;**

**and the God of love and peace will be with you.**

***(2 Corinthians 13:11)***

**The word accordion comes from the German word akkord, which means “agreement, harmony.” *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**A senator had a friend whose company he enjoyed because the man always argued with him. They would argue far into the night. The senator thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual stimulation. One day the friend needed a loan and the senator gladly granted it. From that moment on, however, their relationship changed. The friend no longer argued. Instead, he began to agree with everything the senator said. After several weeks the exasperated senator, now thoroughly bored with the man’s company, blurted out: “Look, either start arguing with me again, for heaven’s sake, or pay me my money!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I do not want people to be very agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them a great deal. *(Jane Austen)***

**There must be an agreement between man and God which never came to me for my signature. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me. *(Benjamin Disraeli)***

**Unless there is at least an agreement to disagree agreeably, there is little hope for harmony. (Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 86)**

**Resistance, at the time, always seems so logical to the human mind which fails to realize that it is dealing with poison. Contrariwise, the healing power of agreement is always the way out of any difficulty. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**When both intuition and logic agree, you are always right. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**During a staff meeting at the Air Force base, the captain disagreed with everything discussed. The commanding officer, a general, grew annoyed and finally let the younger officer know it. “Well, sir,” the captain said, “I doubt you made general by agreeing with everything someone else recommended.” “That’s true,” replied the general, leaning in. “But that is how I made major.” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**No matter how right you are, no matter how wrong the other fellow is, no matter how much evidence you have to prove it, you will never get him to agree with you by arguing him down. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Grandma: “You know, Earl, if you were nicer to my sister she would come visit us more often.” Earl: “True.” Grandma: “So, we agree then?” Earl: “Yes, we agree there really is no incentive for me to be nicer to your sister.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**One of the most valuable things people can learn in this life is how to get people *to* agree with them -- how to sell their ideas to others. Louis Pasteur, the great French scientist, devised a unique approach for accomplishing this end. When presenting a new theory to his associates, even though he himself was positive of its rightness, he would always begin by arguing against it. A new assistant, puzzled by hearing Pasteur arguing against his own theories, questioned him about it. “Let me give you a valuable lesson,” replied Pasteur, “that it has taken me a lifetime to learn. It is this: never try to prove to the other person that you are right. Rather, always present your arguments in such a manner as to do your best to prove that you are wrong. “When you follow this approach, especially when you are sure you are right, invariably the other person will pick up the evidence and, more convincingly than anyone else could possibly do it, bring together indisputable evidence on behalf of your cause and prove to himself and to the world that your stand was from the very beginning the correct one.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**The word “peace” is derived from the Latin “pacere,” meaning “to make an agreement.” To be centered in peace is to be in complete agreement with life. *(Jack E. Addington, in New Thought magazine)***

**The people to worry about are not those who openly disagree with you, but those who disagree with you and are too cowardly to let you know. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**An American President cannot be arrested unless he willingly agrees. When Ulysses S. Grant was stopped while speeding in his carriage in the capital, Grant urged the policeman to take the appropriate action. The President was taken to the police station, but the speeding charge was dropped. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 359)***

**Wife: “Earl, your shirt’s not tucked in.” Earl: “Yeah, so? I’m a grown man. If I want to leave my shirt untucked, I’ll leave my shirt untucked. Do you have a problem with that?” Wife: “No. Not at all. I like it that way.” “Earl: “You do? Well, too bad! I”m tuckin’ it in!” Wife then says to the cat: “You learn a few things over the years.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**I recently attended a large public meeting. One of the speakers set out six points, all highly controversial but not based on fact. When, the next speaker arose, many in the audience were hoping that he would answer the first speaker, taking each point and tearing it to pieces. He did nothing of the kind. “Those are his opinions,” he said, “He is entitled to them. Here are the real facts and the true remedies we should adopt.” From that time on, he did not mention his opponent. There was strength in his presentation. He took over the meeting. People all around were saying, “What that man is saying makes sense!” Agreeing with one’s adversary does not mean that you agree with what he says. You need not fight your adversary, when you state your own case. *(Jack E. Addington, in Abundant Living magazine)***

What great cause would have been fought and won under the banner “I stand for consensus”? *(Margaret Thatcher)*

**My children often disagreed with me, thank God! I’d no objection at all to their being disobedient. Parents should remember that besides being parents, they are also the bone on which the puppy can shape its teeth. *(Peter Ustinov)***

**Man to marriage counselor: “My wife and I can’t agree on our vacation. I want to go to Bermuda and she wants to go with me.” *(Hoest/Reiner, King Features)***

**Four Ways to Disagree in a Civilized Manner:**

**\* “Let me understand your point of view.”**

**\* “I get what you’re saying. Here’s what I think.”**

**\* “There are two sides to that.”**

**\* “I guess we disagree on that.” *(Margaret Shepherd)***

**When two people agree on everything, one of them is doing all the thinking. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***