Final Mix

[00:00:00] **Shelby:** Welcome to Daily Grace. We believe the Bible is true trustworthy and timeless and we want to help women like you know and love God's word The Bible shows us who God is and who he is changes everything My name is Shelby and I want to invite you to come join me and a few of my friends as we chat about the truth of God's word in our everyday lives Today on the daily grace podcast we are going to tackle the question Can we disagree and still be friends Disagreement is inevitable in the way that we handle it has a big impact on our relationships but the way we handle disagreement also matters because as believers we are called to be peacemakers and vessels of the gospel of grace We hope that you'll come and chat with us as we discuss how friendships can flourish Even when we disagree in our beliefs and our convictions come join us in this conversation

[00:01:21] Hey everybody And welcome back to the daily grace podcast This is Shelby and as always it is the highlight of my week to be here talking with you about how the truth of God's word impacts our everyday lives And today I'm going to be joined by Krystal who is a staff writer here at the daily grace co and a very good friend of mine.

[00:01:42] Hi Krystal!

[00:01:43] **Krystal:** Hey Shelby!

[00:01:44] **Shelby:** Krystal joined us actually the last two weeks where we talked about where's God in times of crisis and finding relief from the pressure to do it all And both of those conversations were really beneficial to me personally and I hope that they were to you guys as well but today we're going to talk about a topic that I think is going to hit close to home for a lot of us And at least every time I've mentioned to someone this week that this is the topic we're going to be doing an episode about they have said oh I can't wait to hear what you talk about with that one So today we're going to answer the question Can we disagree and still be friends Can we disagree Theologically Politically can we disagree on methods of mothering or just about anything at all and still be friends That is the question that so many of us are asking and we're going to do our very best to answer that clearly and biblically for you today But first Krystal can you start us off by sharing a favorite thing What is something that you have been using and loving lately

[00:02:46] **Krystal:** Yeah So my favorite thing is a book it's called be thou my vision a liturgy for daily worship it was put together by Jonathan Gibson and it's a 31 day guide that provides just a structure of liturgy for your times with the Lord So it has prayers of confession intercession and those are based on scripture or even like old Puritan prayers And it has really short readings kind of all throughout but I love it because it provides both like Bible reading plans If you don't already have one it gives you suggestions on that it provides just even spaces to confess to the Lord So it like gives you a guided prayer for that And my favorite part is that it provides catechisms And so the Heidelberg in Westminster is included in the back and I love the Heidelberg It's something I use in my own quiet time So having it in one book is so helpful because I don't have to lug around a whole bunch of books for my quiet time And so I think it's really helpful really encouraging So if you don't already have like a structured time with the Lord maybe you have a reading plan but you want to add a little bit more to it I would highly recommend this Pride's really good structure and it's just been really encouraging to me So be thou my vision a liturgy for daily worship

[00:03:57] **Shelby:** Wow I love that I know we get questions all the time from people that say okay how do I get started what do I do So that'd be a great resource for anyone Who's just wondering like Hey what can I do to just start spending time consistently in the word and with the Lord that sounds really cool I'm going to check that out So my favorite thing is super random and I feel a little trivial mentioning it after the resource that you just mentioned but it's actually a paint color so it is a Sherwin Williams color and it's called evergreen fog And I think I mentioned it a couple of things in like past episodes One is that we moved into a new house about a year ago and we have not had the time or just the energy to really do anything to the house Literally every single wall in the whole house is the same color and we've hung two things on the wall And so I decided okay I want to start slowly making my house a home And so I joined the cozy minimalist community and they're helping me on my budget And in my timeframe make my house just look a little more homey and cozy And so I picked this color for our entry way and it's so pretty It's like green gray muted It's not too dark but it's still moody and edgy and it's not as cool as your like bookshelves Krystal They're a little darker and cooler than mine If you ever see Krystal's backdrop it's these really awesome bookshelves but so I really like this color So that is my favorite thing for this week

[00:05:20] **Krystal:** Can I tell you it makes me really happy that your favorite thing is a paint color Okay Well let me tell you two things One did you know that is the 2022 like color of the year for Sherwin Williams

[00:05:32] **Shelby:** That's how I found it I think they picked a good color

[00:05:35] **Krystal:** Yeah And I'll tell you too it's the color that I'm using in our bathroom upstairs on our cabinets So I saw I was like oh I'm so excited that I get to tell her like we have a shared color in our house So it is beautiful I love it

[00:05:50] **Shelby:** That's too funny So tag us in your rooms painted evergreen fog at daily grace Podcast on Instagram

[00:05:59] **Krystal:** It's now turning into a home decor podcast We

[00:06:02] **Shelby:** oh Let's get back to the Bible okay So today we are going to talk about can we disagree and still be friends And I think if we're going to have this conversation and we probably need to start by defining What it means to disagree and what it means to be friends So let's talk this out a little bit Krystal what did it mean to you to disagree Because you and your friend may disagree on whether an iPhone or an Android is the best smartphone but disagreements like that are not really what we're talking about today

[00:06:33] **Krystal:** you know when we talk about disagreeing with one another I think we all probably have an idea in our mind like whether it's a passage situation or examples of what this looks like So I think some of the topics that we disagree about are going to vary from person to person and even the degree in depth to which we disagree is going to vary but at its baseline really that disagreement You just don't see eye to eye with someone about a particular topic And I think we've almost been conditioned to think that disagreement is a bad thing and that we can't be unified as believers If we have different opinions So my boys are two years apart They're the best of friends but they also have their moments And they typically like everything the same They like the same books and the same games but when they find something they don't agree on But they can go into like a meltdown And so it's been really hard to give them the words to communicate what they're feeling and how someone else is feeling something different But it's been so neat because we've talked about Hey this is not wrong The fact that your brother believes something different about this it's just a different opinion And it was like a light bulb moment for them So now when they get into some of these disagreements they'll look at each other and they go oh Different opinions and it's so cute but it's just it's so neat because I feel like we're trying to normalize it a little bit that like it's okay that you have different opinions and you can still like move forward Even if maybe you don't necessarily agree on what it is that you want to do or how you want to do it And they would come to me and say like mom we just had our fourth different opinion And so it's so funny Cause obviously they've had like thousands of quote unquote different opinions but they just didn't have the words to communicate what it was they were experiencing And so I think my hope is that they would remember that not everyone is going to think like them or believe the same things as them And so to teach them how to navigate those conversations rather than seeing it as bad I think it's been really helpful

[00:08:40] **Shelby:** so I need to use that with my kids cause they disagree all the time obviously my friends and I disagree on a lot of things Like a lot of my friends have minivans and I refuse to get one but

[00:08:50] **Krystal:** Don't knock it till you try it I'm just saying

[00:08:53] **Shelby:** no I can't I don't know I just can't have a minivan but it's like me refusing that I'm in my thirties It's that is what that's about anyways but I think they kind of disagreement that we're talking about today is that someone else has a core belief that challenges one of my core beliefs So who you are and what you believe then causes me discomfort because it is so different from who I am and what I believe And maybe it's just uncomfortable because it's making me examine what I believe and like see if it's really true that especially happens with another Christian disagrees with you and they feel that their opinion is biblical and you feel your opinion is biblical or maybe it's uncomfortable because I know that it's not biblical based on scripture and I don't really know how to handle that So I think that like when the cores of two people and their beliefs just bump up into each other that's the kind of disagreement that we're talking about today and another thing I want to talk about is just what it means to be friends Cause I know it might seem like oh I I understand what it means to be friends I have tons of friends but sometimes I think we need to define that even biblically and really the biblical definition of friendship challenges a cultural definition of friendship So I think culturally friendship is you unwaveringly support me and affirm me in all things but I think biblically friendship is you unwaveringly point me to Jesus in all things as I do the same for you And so cultural friendship I almost view it To people who are like face-to-face and they must say to each other at all times like you are right And I believe you in in everything that you say is true but like biblical friendship is almost like two people both like with their faces pointed towards Jesus in saying like Jesus is right in all things And sometimes that means I might have to disagree with my friend or have a conversation with them And so I do think it's important to just define that upfront but crystal do you have anything to add there on biblical friendship

[00:10:44] **Krystal:** No I just I like that idea of like either facing one another or facing the Lord Cause I think you know a term we hear a lot in like culture is like speak your truth right So like that's kind of like what that cultural friendship is maybe basing their friendship on is like speaking your truth and that like you have to affirm it because it's your truth But instead pointing each other to the Lord and say like what is the truth of God's word Say I think that is a much better basis for us to to just define friendship and how that looks in the midst of conflict or disagreement So I think that's really helpful

[00:11:18] **Shelby:** Let's jump into another part of this conversation So why is it important for us to talk about disagreeing with friends in a biblical way Like what why do we need to address this from my biblical standard

[00:11:31] **Krystal:** Yeah So I think addressing this biblically is important because at the core of this conversation is how we as image bearers treat other image bears Right And so I think we saw this play out in early 20 20 really all throughout 2020 And we still see it today but especially on social media you know between COVID and racial justice and divisions on just various theological issues within denominations I think we saw some examples of how to disagree Well I think we also saw some examples of how we shouldn't handle disagreements Right And I'm a people pleaser Like I just know that about myself So this topic is actually very difficult in kind of uncomfortable for me because I want to avoid conflict and confrontation at all costs And depending on the disagreement there's just times where I don't want to engage And so this really goes back to like how do we view disagreements and our unity in the midst of it And what is it that we are fighting In those moments because I know for me it's often not unity amongst believers because my reactions will stem from like self-preservation or even like defensiveness based on whatever the topic is like I want to be right and I want to be comfortable And so I don't want to engage but how we handle those disagreements will determine how close we allow others to get to us And it's going to affect how you engage in your local church and And in turn how we answer this question like can we disagree and still be friends This ultimately affects our relationship with the Lord So mark 12 says this is Jesus talking love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength and then he says the second is this He was being asked like what's the greatest commandment And then he says the second is this love your neighbor as yourself He says there's no other command greater than these And I think not handling disagreement well can hinder us from real authentic community and greater intimacy with the Lord

[00:13:39] **Shelby:** yes I agree with every single word that you just said And I think it will be interesting to hear both of our perspectives on this conversation because you're saying that you run from disagreement and conflict and I tend to run to it I'm like Ooh I have something to say like So both of those can be good in both of those can lead to maybe some not great situations So I'm glad that we're both here to speak into this but you know another reason I think that this conversation is important to have biblically is that Ephesians four one through three says therefore I the prisoner of the Lord urge you to walk worthy of the calling You have received with all humility and gentleness with patience bearing with one or one another in love making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace And this is Paul he's talking to the church at Ephesus and in the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul has laid out what the gospel is You know Ephesians two you were dead in your trespasses and sin but God who is rich in mercy because of his great love for us has made us alive in Jesus Christ You are saved by grace Like just some of the most amazing words we can find in the Bible but then we get to Ephesians four and now Paul is saying In light of the fact that you've been saved by grace you have a responsibility to live according to the calling that you have received He's saying the gospel isn't just good news It's life transforming news And Paul is urging them to let their faith inform all they say and do their entire way of living And here's what that looks like He says to live with humility and gentleness and patience bearing with one another in love and making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace And I really think that that word worthy there is so important If we're going to live worthy of the calling It's the Greek word Axios which Equal weight So he's basically saying your walk or what you do should be an equal weight to your calling or what Christ has done for you And so I mean that's kind of like just a like light bulb moment for me but the calling here is salvation but also the way that your salvation in Christ unites you to other believers And so we have to walk worthy of that calling and so like you said the way that we relate to those around us matters because as Christians we're United with Christ and we're United with other believers and today we're going to talk about this specifically as it relates to disagreements because we have seen that disagreements and friendships can bring out the worst in us pride bitterness anger just everything the opposite of walking worthy of the calling that we have received So we want to talk about how to navigate those situations Well and we're going to talk about three different ways in areas in which you may disagree with people And then we're going to talk about biblically a scripture that talks about how we should navigate that And then we're also going to talk about okay now what does that look like So here's the three different areas that we're going to talk about when you disagree with someone on personal convictions That's something the Bible gives us freedom on that you and your friend feel differently about For instance alcohol consumption school choice Do you homeschool your kids Do they go to public school for women it might be working outside the home or being a homemaker parenting philosophies There's literally endless personal convictions that we could have so we're gonna talk about what to do when you disagree there We're going to talk about what to do when you disagree on doctrine So that's interpreting scripture differently doctrine is something that scripture does give us guidance on but different people interpret it differently So this might be like baptism or the roles of women in the church where the gifts of the spirit things that scripture definitely speaks to And then we are also going to talk about what to do when you disagree with someone on faith as a whole So your friend is agnostic or atheist or maybe of a different faith but yeah Altogether Christianity is something that they disagree with So we're going to talk through each one of those here but crystal can you start us off by talking about what to do when we disagree with someone on a personal conviction What does that look like and how should we handle

[00:17:46] **Krystal:** Yeah So in our women's Bible study we're going through Romans And so we just went through Romans 14 I think it really speaks well to our topic especially when it comes to conviction So I'm a bit of context So for Romans Paul's writing this to Jewish and Gentile Christians in room and they've experienced a really interesting shift in the life of their church So in 80 49 the Roman emperor Claudius expelled all of the Jews from Rome So because of this all of the Roman churches were primarily left with Gentile Christians to essentially run the show So it's almost as if all of your church leaders and pastors were forced to leave town And then you were just trying to figure it out on your own the exile happened over the course of five years And so towards the end of that five years Jewish Christian started to come back into the city started coming back into the churches And so you had some churches that were primarily Jewish groups Some that were still primarily Gentile Christians and then some that were a mix of both And so you see how convictions are probably starting to rise and starting to cause some conflicts cause you have some that are wanting to hold to the traditions found in the law and they want to use that to worship God Okay So a lot of the Jewish Christians are wanting to hold two different rituals different traditions and then you have some that see their freedom in Christ They don't feel the need to hold onto those traditions anymore And you see that probably in both Jew and Gentile Christians cause the Gentile Christians coming in are learning the law for the first time And so they're seeing everything written out mosaic law and they're like okay well this is how we are to worship God and so it's not just Jews versus Gentile Christians it's probably a mix of both It's kind of what we're talking about And so as Paul's writing this letter he's reminding them that the gospel is for every It is for Jew and Gentile and they are to be United as one body So that's the context as we're going into Romans 14 And so starting in verse one Paul says except anyone who is weak in faith but don't argue about disputed matters And so as he's talking throughout this text he brings up someone who has weakened faith in someone who is strong in faith and so I think we can look at that at face value So when we're looking at the weaker and the stronger believer the weaker is referring to someone who is judging someone else for holding to a different conviction than them And so they might be looking at them and thinking that they're in sin because they don't have the same convictions And then later when he talks about the stronger believer So even in verse one except anyone who was weak in faith he's talking to the stronger believer so stronger believer welcomed them into the fellowship The stronger believer is someone who might look down on the weaker for their convictions And so if the weaker believes this is the way that I want to worship God I think you know adhering to these festivals and these laws like this is going to help me in my devotion to God The stronger believers should not look down on them and should not diminish how they choose to worship God and so this is actually different than even how Paul refers to it in Galatians when he is calling out the Judaizers who would say that they have to adhere to these laws for salvation So this is very different This is a matter of conviction He's not saying that the stronger the weaker are in sin He's just saying to me you need to be aware of how you're responding to others as you live out these convictions So Really what he is concerned with is how they treat others He's less concerned about who's right But more concerned about how they are to treat others in light of how they live out their convictions

[00:21:17] **Shelby:** Yeah I think that's a great breakdown And just like as an example of this One of my best friends Hi Blair If you're listening to this she has the conviction that she should homeschool her children It is like a core belief that she has and one that she holds very dearly And I certainly see the value in homeschooling and honestly think that had I had the opportunity to do that It would have been a joy to do it but I just don't have the conviction that that's right for me and my family in this season So my kids go to public school And what I love about talking to Blair about this topic is that we both acknowledged the conviction The other person holds and we cheer them on in it and we support them in it And our agenda Has not ever been to convince the other person that our convictions should also be their convictions And so it's actually been really cool to like enter her world and learn from her and know that when we have a conversation about it like she's just sharing about her life and she is not going to condemn me for not living the same life as her and I likewise with her in my choices And so I've actually been able to like benefit and learn a lot from her and the rhythms and routines and all the cool things that she does but honestly if either one of us had alienated the other based on our different convictions then we would have like missed out on all of that And so I have seen the fruit of being more concerned with how we treat others than being concerned with who is right and who is wrong I'll say too on this that the temptation is that when you see someone who chooses a different path than you in something like a personal conviction like this it should be like oh well now like we have nothing in common and we can't be friends anymore And you just kind of like naturally drift apart But I really don't think that that has to be the case I really think a foundation of friendship is still there that can be built on even if you're so so different And that actually can be a really rich and diverse and enjoyable friendship too

[00:23:07] **Krystal:** Yeah I agree And I think there's so much that you can learn when you're friends with people that are different than you whatever that context is whether it's how you live out your convictions whether it's different background so I love that Like you have a good friend and y'all have this foundation that isn't rooted in The fact that you school your kids in the exact same way Cause that might change you know like the Lord may call you to something different may call her to something different and so I love that you're able to like learn from each other in that way And that it's like a safe place to be able to process like what it is that God has called you to So I love that And I think when we you know come into these conversations we don't want to come in thinking that you know if we present the scripture in this way or if I quote this particular author or this particular theologian then I will get them to my side You know Cause sadly I think that's where we often go in disagreements We may not mentally realize that's what we're doing but we want to prove that we're right because honestly we wouldn't hold to this conviction if we didn't think it was right Like we hold to it because we think it's what's best So going back to Romans 14 Paul says in verse three that we are to not look down on each other and not to judge each other for our convictions because Christ has accepted us And so later in verse 15 he says for if your brother or sister is hurt by what you eat So if we are living out our freedom in Christ and it's actually creating a stumbling block for someone else he says we are no longer walking according to love And he says to not destroy by what you eat someone for whom Christ So that's what happens whenever we live out our convictions in a way that's maybe harmful to others or creating that stumbling block we are potentially destroying someone that Christ died for and so verse 19 tells us that we are to pursue what promotes peace and what builds one another up and to it seems to emphasis in a lot of Paul's writings is really for the edification and the building up of And so we're not to create division where God has provided freedom and we don't want to rely on human wisdom but godly wisdom as seen in the scriptures think first Corinthians eight through 10 is another place that you can go to for really similar teaching of Paul but as we looked at these scriptures I think it helps us to remember the place of the gospel in our relationships and how we are to live out our convictions and this is why Paul says in first Corinthians 10 verses 23 and 24 that everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial He says everything is permissible but not everything builds up No one is to seek his own good but the good of the other person this is why we should know what we believe and why but we also need to create space for others to land in a different place than us

[00:25:51] **Shelby:** Yeah I think that that's so good And when you're saying that Paul's emphasis is on like the edification and the building up of others I think we also need to realize too because sometimes these disagreements of conviction happen when like maybe someone is like new to their faith and they're just learning and studying scripture for the first time And I think we have to understand that that happens slowly Like we have to have the same patients within that The Lord is having with them as he's revealing himself and revealing scripture and all of those things And so um I just love that that idea of like building up like it's not like this boom all of a sudden we're all perfect No we are all in the process of being built and we are all going to have to have patience with each other as we figure out our convictions according to scripture so let me just ask you this crystal what does it look like to you to be friends with someone who differs in their convictions

[00:26:44] **Krystal:** Yeah I think we need to remind ourselves like we're all pursuing the Lord As we work out our convictions we should really look for opportunities to build each other up rather than try to pave Right And I think if we are actively seeking the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ in this way it actually frees us up to love them in the way that scripture commands the point that Paul is making here in Romans 14 is it that we shouldn't have firm convictions but instead that we should have soft hearts towards fellow believers as we live out those convictions

[00:27:16] **Shelby:** Okay That's like a perfect phrase to remember right there from convictions soft hearts Like I love that What a just great Way to remember what we just talked about in differing and convictions And I feel like we could talk about this forever but I want to move on to when we disagree on doctrine So first let's define doctrine and I pulled a definition from the dictionary of Bible themes of course there's lots of different definitions for doctrine I specifically just liked this one though So here's what it says It says the doctrine is the body of teachings in the Christian faith concerning its central beliefs Doctrine is grounded in scripture and aims to maintain the integrity of Christianity by distinguishing it from non-Christian beliefs doctrine is of central importance in Christian preaching and teaching and that it equips the people of God for effective and faithful service in his world So basically doctorate is the core beliefs of Christianity as taught by the Bible And it's different from personal convictions and that the Bible does speak directly on these issues But there may be some debate as to how we interpret and apply that scripture So differences in doctrine often result in differences in denominations but you may also disagree on doctrine with someone within your church And often we feel really really really strongly about doctrinal issues some of these issues might be things like baptism Do you believe in the baptism of infants or children or believers baptism or maybe the roles of women in church do you believe that women can preach teach and lead Or is there a line biblically that they cannot cross in leadership And so the Bible does speak on these issues You can interpret it differently So I actually wrote a theology column for our B-cell magazine which I don't know if y'all know this but daily grace has a quarterly magazine we put out and our team pours so much as time and effort and energy into making it like the most beautiful theologically rich magazine available And so definitely check that out if you don't But and I promise I did not even plan this but there's an issue coming out in April issue And I wrote an article in it That's titled should doctrine divide thoughts on unifying the church because I kind of feel strongly about this topic And so I'm just going to pull a few few points from that article But so traditionally in church history doctrines have been placed into categories of primary secondary and tertiary in order to help people keep first doctrines first and then decide like okay what is maybe a secondary doctrine or even just a peripheral doctrine While there is some debate There is a list of doctrines that are widely accepted as primary And these are the things in which you must agree on these primary doctrines in order to be a Christian in order to believe the Bible and adhere to it but this list and I'm just going to warn you is so much shorter than we probably think it is primary doctrines are like the hinge points of Christianity and they're the only doctrines worth dividing over because you can't really be a biblical Christian and deny any of these Okay So here's the primary doctrines The Trinity there is one God in three persons The second one is the person of Jesus Christ Jesus is fully man and fully God for all eternity born of a Virgin the third one is salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ The fourth is scripture It is entirely an errant and sufficient for all Christian life And then the fifth is the second coming of Christ that Jesus is coming back to earth to rule and judge And these are the only five really primary doctrines There may be some the others of belief can be thrown in there at times but like these are the widely accepted ones And so outside of these five we really need to have charity in grace for doctrinal differences and in that we need to fight for unity and oneness in the body of Christ by focusing on these primary things that we have in common and keeping first things first And so Paul describes these first things in first Corinthians 15 three through four which says for I passed on to you as most important what I also received that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures So In today's Christian culture Sometimes we divide over everything We divide over music style of preaching ministry strategies and so much more I mean we might read a tweet that we don't like and perceive a theological misstep in someone And then we divide from them like without a second thought But I think that in doctrinal issues a better way to do this would be to follow the pattern that's given us to by scripture and by church tradition And if we agree on the primary doctrines of Christianity let's strive for unity even when we disagree on the secondary issues So we can be generous and charitable and loving and open to conversation and pursue those things above pursuing conflict from someone who disagrees with us doctrinally

[00:32:25] **Krystal:** Yeah I think remembering those primary issues are just so helpful in this conversation because I think it gives a space to work out the secondary and tertiary issues that are still important but they just impact us differently as believers So if you're listening to this conversation you're still a little unsure Kind of where you stand on certain doctrines I would highly recommend Gavin Orland's book It's called a finding the right Hills to die on the case for theological triage It's super accessible It's really easy to read He just does a really good job helping believers discern really where they stand and why

[00:33:00] **Shelby:** Yeah I love that book and I totally bought it when I was like kind of having our crisis of like how to relate to someone who disagreed doctrinally for me on some things And I found it to be very very helpful but when it comes to doctrinal conversations and disagreements another passage that I think of is James three 13 through 18 and what I love about this passage is James is specifically talking to people who teach spiritual truths And here's what those verses say It says who among you is wise and understanding by his good conduct He should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart don't boast and deny the truth Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly unspiritual demonic for where there is envy and selfish ambition There is disorder and every evil practice but the wisdom from above is first pure Then peace-loving gentle compliant full of mercy and good fruits unwavering without pretense And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who call Piece basically he's saying do you consider yourself to be wise and understanding then prove it by the way that you live your life be gentle don't use your wisdom to selfishly promote your own gain or prove that you're right for when you speak out of envy or selfish ambition and these conversations then you're inviting disorder in every other evil practice but speak the pure truth in a way that is peace loving and gentle and compliant full of mercy and good fruits And we know the fruits of the spirit love joy peace patience kindness goodness We all know that list but also he says be unwavering in your convictions and when we use our wisdom For selfish gain It leads to disorder and every evil practice but when we use it in a gentle merciful and peace loving way then it will lead to the fruit of righteousness cultivated in peace And can I just tell you that there have been a number of times where I know I'm walking into a discussion on doctrine with a friend Maybe I know that it's going to come up in a Bible study cause I know we're going through a difficult passage or maybe that friend like disagreed with me openly and I'm going to them to have a conversation and just say Hey can we work this out And I have spent a lot of time in these verses before I go into those conversations These verses are like a checklist for me of how I handle conversations over disagreements in doctrine

[00:35:24] **Krystal:** Oh that's so encouraging and so challenging Cause I feel like when I'm going into those conversations I'm typically looking over scriptures that support what it is that I am coming in to talk about versus like how should my heart be You know like what should my posture be towards someone who disagrees with me

[00:35:42] **Shelby:** Yeah so I like this quote it says in essentials unity in non-essentials Liberty in all things charity and that quote comes from Rupert I smelled Denius He was a German theologian but basically in those relationships I'm just always doing that I'm always putting myself back to first things first So is the doctrine is the doctrine that we disagree on a central it's a if it's a first here like primary doctorate and such as the deity of Christ or the validity of the resurrection or something like that then I would seek unity with that person by probably having a pretty serious conversation around that topic because to deny those truths is actually to deny Christianity as a whole and so w what we'll see in a moment even if someone denies Christianity as a whole that doesn't mean we can't be friends with them but if we disagree on something that's non-essential like any of the other doctrinal issues that we've been talking about baptism guests of the spirit then charity and you know what I assume that I could be wrong in my position too I hope I'm not I hope that I put the time and the effort in to know what I believe in why but I'm still learning Like my faith is incredibly different today than it was 10 years ago And my friends probably will be too And so to just Liberty I allow them the Liberty to to be growing and also for me to be growing as well And then in all things charity just generosity and grace and honesty I think this can be hard for us but I think the degree to which we can live alongside and enjoy living alongside someone who differs from us depends on a couple of factors First how secure are we in Christ How much do we need the validation of others If we need to be validated by people then we aren't going to be able to be in a friendship with someone who disagrees with us but if we are secure in Christ if that's where our validation and our worth is coming from then we're going to be okay to disagree with someone else And then the second factor is how fully did we realize that we have been lavished with grace by the Lord I think we give grace to others so much more freely when we realize how much grace that we have been given you know Romans five six through seven I love these verses but it's For a while We were still helpless at the right time Christ died for the ungodly for rarely will someone die for a just person though for a good person Perhaps someone might even dare to die but God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us And so I can just follow that example and these relationships and I can be the first to give grace in maybe the only one to give grace and I can do that Not because I'm strong or amazing or any of those things because I know Christ has done that for me the last point that we want to cover is when we disagree on someone about faith as a whole So they disagree fundamentally in wholly with Christianity So what do we do in that situation and how do we work out those relationships

[00:38:37] **Krystal:** Yeah I feel like we run the risk of maybe hitting some of the same obstacles as we do when we disagree over convictions So when we engage with non-believers we have to remember that we are starting from two very different places So as believers we are starting with the scriptures and the truth of the gospel they are starting with what seems to be true to them So their own experiences and how they use that to interpret the world around them And so often in disagreements that are centered around faith there's these two competing worldviews And sometimes these conversations can go out of order when we maybe point to their behavior rather than to the gospel And so when we call them to change how they live rather than call them to trust and believe the gospel we are effectively preaching moralism right Rather than pursuing a relationship with God And so we can't be the holy spirit in their lives but we can't point them to the freedom that's found in the gospel And that's what changes the lives And so we have to remember really why we're engaging with non-believers in the first place And if we are coming into those conversations wanting to convince them of how right re are we have missed the point right We've missed an opportunity to love them Well there's this book that I love by Gregory Coco and it's called tactics and this is a book That's all about how to navigate conversations with those who don't know the Lord yet But honestly there's so much in this book that has helped me even in some of these other areas of disagreement that we've already discussed And there's this quote that has always stuck with me from the book And it says this unfriendly quarrels are not productive If anyone in the conversation gets mad then you lose arguments or disagreements for the sake of our conversation they are good things Indeed Arguing is a virtue because it advances clear thinking if done well it helps refine our understanding of truth

[00:40:34] **Shelby:** wow That's a great quote I love that And that book has been like on my to read list for probably six months but I'm going to get to it because I have heard so many great things about it you know when you said that it reminded me of second Timothy two verses 22 through 26 but in there it says reject foolish and ignorant disputes because you know that they breed quarrels The Lord's servant must not quarrel but must be gentle to everyone able to teach and patient instructing his opponents with gentleness perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of truth Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his well so I love those verses cause it pretty clearly says like Hey your role is to Not argue to reject foolish arguments and ignorant disputes that come up against you to be gentle to everyone It actually says that we're gentle twice in there So I think that's pretty important and to teach and patiently instruct And so I think the reason that we can take this humble and slow and servant like approach to people who are unbelievers is because it is God who grants the repentance and leads people to the knowledge of truth Ultimately it is not on us We should obediently be sharing the gospel and engaging in these conversations but we are not the ones who change hearts and so just like we talked about before we're to walk worthy of the calling we have received and to share the grace of God that we have received with others Not only with our words but also with our actions And that includes with unbelievers So what does it look like for you crystal to be friends with someone who's an unbeliever

[00:42:13] **Krystal:** I think for me it looks like going into those friendships without this like personal agenda You know it doesn't mean that we can't have these gospel relationships with nonbelievers like we should and we should seek to share the gospel But what I mean is people can tell very quickly if you are not being genuine in your love of them And so if you were there again to be right or to convince them of what you believe they're going to be able to sniff it out pretty quick And so I want to be able to love them in these friendships Like I would with my believing friends it's just going to look different the way that I love them It's going to look different How I talk about that love is going to be different and the direction of our conversations obviously are going to be a little bit different So I think that's probably it for me What about you What does it look like for you

[00:43:03] **Shelby:** Yeah You know what I was thinking about this the biggest word I just thought I was patient and I'm in love in honestly the word was strange because you know When you have a friend or someone dear to you who's an unbeliever You're probably going to see them make choices that you know could be harmful or detrimental to them And really in those moments like you said not nudging them towards moralism not saying like Hey you should have made a different choice or you should have done something better but instead sharing the gospel with them when those opportunities arrive And so I don't know just that word restraint I feel like comes up so much for me in those relationships but also diligently praying for an opportunity to share the gospel and then bravely walking into those conversations when the opportunity arises because it will and then honestly repeat as necessary I have hardly had any unbelieving friends who have come to the faith you know Quickly and then just been on fire for the Lord ever since it's almost always been a long and slow process And for many many of those friendships it still is in that process for me So we're almost done talking about this topic but two things we want to do before we end Why don't we just want to give you a couple of practical tips crystal I'm going to pass it off to you in a second to do that but then we're just gonna end for what hope do we have when we disagree with friends in Christ in the gospel and in eternity So first Krystal I know you have a couple of practical tips for us You want to share those

[00:44:29] **Krystal:** Yeah I think the nice thing is I feel like a lot of them have kind of like risen to the surface as we've been talking So I want to read just a couple of verses a talk about maybe some common themes that we see through them So Romans 1218 says if possible as far as it depends on you live at peace with everyone And you mentioned Ephesians four earlier that says you know we're to walk worthy of the calling that we've received with humility gentleness and then in verse four it says like there is one body one spirit that you have been called to Colossians three verses 13 through 15 Talk about bearing with one another and forgiving one another If anyone has a grievance against us and then just as the Lord has forgiven you So you are also to forgive and then we're to put on love which is the perfect bond of unity and let the peace of Christ to which you were also called in one Rule your hearts and be thankful And I love verse 17 and whatever you do in word or indeed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the father through him So these verses really kind of come back to that unity within the body and how we are to treat others in light of what Christ has done for us We live at peace as far as it depends on us and we bear each other's burdens in love We do these things because we are one body in Christ I think so much of it comes back to how we are to respond in light of being in one body and being brothers and sisters in Christ Just pursuing the Lord together

[00:45:54] **Shelby:** Yeah absolutely And you know sometimes we're doing all those things but our friendships are still strained because we can only live in peace with others so far as it depends on us And so sometimes we're in a situation where you know the other person has just really broken that piece and it can't be reestablished And so in those instances I think of some of Jesus's words when he was dying on the cross And so Luke 2334 says then Jesus said father forgive them because they do not know what they are doing And sometimes I think we have to forgive people who don't know what they're doing and the only way we can really do that is if we realize the depth of Jesus's forgiveness for us and in our friendships and in our relationships there are going to be times where we are going to need to show a graciousness and generosity in the face of disagreement even when it's really really hard But we have to realize that when we do that we are showing Christ to the world Matthew five 14 through 16 says you are the light of the world A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket but rather on a lampstand And it gives light for all who are in the house in the same way let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven And so I think we have to have this perspective that our disagreements are about being right but there are about giving glory to our father in heaven They're about being a light on a hill in the midst of a world that is divisive and disagrees on so many things we can act with love and charity and grace and generosity And that is going to be a beacon that is shining the light of Jesus to a dark world

[00:47:36] **Krystal:** that's so good Yeah Our our theology and our convictions as you know as important as they are and as hard as we work to really form them by the spirit and through the reading of his word They will never be perfect because he's God we are not right And so I think this should produce humility in us in a greater view of Christ and his holiness because our lack of theological perfection should cause us to worship him as the only perfect one who loves us and delights in us in spite of our imperfect theology and convictions And so Christ laid down his life so that we could experience freedom and joy as we live out our faith And I think too you know we have to remember like we will all worship together If we are in Christ we will all worship at the throne of Jesus together for all of eternity So fighting for unity and peace is worth it That's what Christ came to die for And so he he laid down his life for you and for me and for all of those that we disagree with So if you know we are accepted in Christ as Paul mentions in Romans 14 two like we should model the love of Christ as we walk alongside of each other

[00:48:48] **Shelby:** Yeah we really have to have that eternal perspective in all things you know sometimes we get so focused on like the here and now and who agrees with us and who does it And it's like Hey one day like we are all together going to be at the feet of Jesus going to be in eternity And so I think just keeping that in mind puts a million other things in perspective Well thank you guys so much for joining us today on the daily grace podcast we hope this conversation was helpful and encouraging and maybe even a little challenging to you I know it certainly was for us but we really look forward to being back next week with our conversation We are actually going to do our Q and a episode Our ask us anything episode crystal will be joining me again for that episode And we are so excited You all submitted your questions a while back and we have been mulling over and choosing a few of those to respond to and it is going to be super fun Don't forget to subscribe to the podcast and newsletter That's just another way that we have created to be in touch with you So every week we'll be sending out that newsletter to you in your email And then occasionally you're also going to get a free resource that goes along with the podcast episode for this week So for instance this week the free resource is seven prayers for strained friendship in if you have a friendship that maybe because of a disagreement or because of anything else is experiencing a time of strain we just gave you like seven prayers and scriptures and trues to hold on to to just really lean into and pray for that friendship And really just pray that that can be a help and a hope to you but Hey until next week when we see you again you can join us on the conversation over on our Instagram page at daily grace podcast And we will see you next week