

Creekside Community Church
"The Return of the King" The Gospel of Matthew
March 4, 2018
John Bruce - Pastor

Handling Controversy Skillfully (Matthew 22:15-46)

- 1. Be Alert for Either/Or Arguments** (Matthew 22:15-22)
- 2. Question Assumptions** (Matthew 22:23-33)
- 3. Build Agreements, not Arguments** (Matthew 22:34-40)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Why do you think American society is so polarized today? Have you seen a decline in civil discourse and people's ability to disagree reasonably? How? Why does this kind of culture make it especially difficult for Christians to present the gospel?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Matthew 22:15-22. Why is this a no-win question for Jesus? Can you think of similar either/or questions we face today? Why are Jesus' opponents amazed by His answer? What do you learn from Jesus in this debate?
4. Please read Matthew 22:23-33. What is the Sadducees' argument against the resurrection? What must they assume for their argument to make sense? What do you learn from Jesus in the way He answers the Sadducees? What is an assumption? How can we question people's assumptions without insulting them in the process?
5. Please read Matthew 22:34-40. Why is the lawyer's question a test for Jesus? What do you notice about the way Jesus answers this question? How does Jesus build an agreement rather than an argument? How do you typically respond to people who try to convince you that you're wrong and they're right? What are some ways we can follow Jesus' example here?
6. Please read Matthew 22:41-46. Why do you think Jesus now asks His opponents a question? What does He ask them? What does He want them to realize? Why wasn't Jesus content to simply silence His opponents? What can we learn from His example?

Application: What is one thing you have learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?