

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”  
2 Timothy 2:22

## December 4, 2022 - Feedforward



This morning's sermon is about using Matthew 7:12, or “The Golden Rule,” as the basis for our religious disagreements. *“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* If we can determine how we'd want someone to treat us in a disagreement, then we know how we should treat them in a disagreement. In preparation for this sermon, I read a Christian-based book called “I Beg to Differ: Navigating Difficult Conversations with Truth and Love” by Tim Muelhoff. It's tremendously helpful. Muelhoff is a professor at Biola University and his podcast, “Winsome Conviction,” is aimed at teaching people “how to cultivate understanding, civility, and compassion in disagreement.” In his book, he describes a process called “feedforwarding,” which is critical before approaching any sensitive conversation. Here's how he describes it.

*“In the early 1920's a young communication scholar, I. A. Richards, wanted to help people understand why communication between two individuals often goes poorly. After years of research he argued that the foundational cause of interpersonal conflict was an inability to anticipate how one's words would affect a conversation. His remedy was a concept called 'feedforward.' Feedforward is the 'process of anticipating the effects of communication and adapting to these anticipated effects in advance of actually communicating with others. In order to participate in this process we need to have an idea of a person's experiences, beliefs, values and core convictions before we engage him or her in conversation. How does this person feel about the topic I want to discuss? What is her conviction about the issue? How did she arrive at this conviction? How will she respond if I challenge it? In what areas do we agree? What words or tone will push her away? Simply put, feedforward is anticipatory feedback. If I don't know how my words will impact a person then I cannot adapt my communication effectively. Rather than simply confronting the person, perhaps I need to gather information first.”*

What I appreciate about the feedforward concept is that it ensures all of our conversations show honor to the person we're talking to. In fact, it shows love because we're affording them the highest respect and dignity. This is why Jesus says treating others the way we would want to be treated is the sum of the Law and Prophets, because it's the ultimate demonstration of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Paul says, *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”* (Romans 12:10). Feedforwarding acknowledges our words affect people, and we need to choose our words carefully so as to honor this precious soul made in God's image.

As a disclaimer, when we feedforward, we can't know the future. Feedforwarding isn't about predicting exactly how a conversation will go and how this person will respond. Muelhoff rightly notes in another chapter, *“One of the most difficult conversations we can have is the one we imagine.”* So don't use feedforwarding to imagine the entire interaction; that might cause us to clam up in fear and never voice our disagreements. Rather, use feedforwarding to realize disagreements are delicate, this person matters to us, and it's important we don't go bulldozing into conflict without carefully restraining our restlessly evil tongue (James 3:8). It's how I'd want others to approach me, and if I'm going to follow the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12, it's how I'm going to approach them.

- BM

### Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service  
9:45 a.m. Bible Class  
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

### Elders

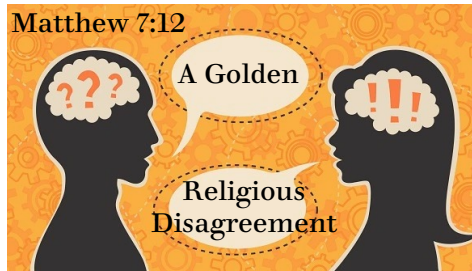
Herb Hinely 407-339-4805  
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266  
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393  
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112  
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

### Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty  
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene  
Emory VanCleeef  
Bobby Burns, Daniel Fritz

### Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517  
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375



**I'm only going to \_\_\_\_\_ with you  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
I'd want you to disagree with me**

**1. I'd want them to \_\_\_\_\_ at least as much as they \_\_\_\_\_**

- o I would want it to be a dialogue, not a monologue (**James 1:19**)
  - o A) Listening shows \_\_\_\_\_
  - o B) Listening shows a desire to understand them and their beliefs (**Proverbs 18:2**)

**2. I'd want them to listen until they understand exactly \_\_\_\_\_ I believe**

- o Straw manning = arguing against a false version of someone's beliefs (**Proverbs 18:13**)
  - o Definition of terms is crucial! \_\_\_\_\_ questions help like, "What exactly do you believe about...?" "What do you mean by?" "Just so I understand what you're saying, tell me more about..." (**John 2:19-21**)
  - o **The \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Method** is a great way to understand someone's position.
    - o **5 minutes** - I talk uninterrupted to explain my position. **3 minutes** - You talk uninterrupted to summarize my position in your own words. "It sounds like what you're saying is..." "What I'm hearing is..." "What I think I understand is..." **2 minutes** - I clarify any differences between my actual position and your summary of it.

**3. I'd want them to listen until they understand exactly \_\_\_\_\_ I believe it**

- o **Proverbs 14:12** - Don't tell them why it leads to death before finding out why it seems right to them.
- o Our ears are free and our tongues are \_\_\_\_\_ for a reason!
  - o Finding out the Bible verses, life experiences, books, and influential people who have contributed to why they believe what they believe helps us empathize and sympathize with them. (**Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12**)

**4. I'd want them to point out the things we have in \_\_\_\_\_**

- o **Acts 17:16, 22** - People aren't all evil or all good; we're much more complex and nuanced. Look for the good things you have in common!
  - o **Key:** Listening well to their beliefs and finding common ground does NOT mean we agree with all their beliefs.

**5. I'd want them to disagree with me with kind words and \_\_\_\_\_ of voice**

- o **Acts 17:23** - "Objects of your worship" (**James 3:5; Proverbs 18:21; 18:19**)
  - o Ad hominem is a fallacy that attacks the person, not the position. Harshness, loud volume, insults, and condescension shuts down any chance of convincing someone to change their beliefs. (**Proverbs 17:27; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:24-25**) "I'm struggling to reconcile..." "Give me a moment to calm down..."
    - o This teaching is everywhere in Scripture, yet almost \_\_\_\_\_ in society.

**6. I'd want them to be open to changing their \_\_\_\_\_ if they're wrong**

- o **James 3:17** - "Reasonable" = "willing to yield." Willing to use logic, not just emotions and feelings.

**Questions for Self-Reflection**

1. What might be a golden way to start a conversation with someone you disagree with religiously?
2. Do you have any fears about really listening to and studying someone else's beliefs? If so, why is that?
3. If you feel yourself getting way too heated or emotionally charged, what can you do in the moment to be calm?
4. Is there anything else you would want from someone who disagrees with you religiously?

# The Announcements (that some read)

Sunday, Dec 4, 2022

Please email all new announcements to [announcements@psd.church](mailto:announcements@psd.church).

## MEMBERS HEALTH ISSUES:

### NEW

- **Joy Thomas** has bronchitis and still has a severe cough. She is home today.
- **Anna Marcotte** is in pain with costochondritis and a bad cold/sore throat. She is home.
- **Rebecca Salimbene** is having shoulder surgery in January.

### UPDATES

- **Angela Rubright** is feeling a little better but still suffering cough & congestion. She has missed work all last week & staying home today. **Austin & Ashley** are getting better.
- **Jim Cummings** has COPD & asthma. He reports that his oxygen level is getting lower and is getting more difficult to treat. He remains at home.
- **Larry Van Cleef** has been released from the doctor and has recently found a job in Daytona Beach. He is so thankful to all for your prayers and encouragement.
- **Patsy Holt** has been feeling pretty good but having side effects from the antibiotics. She is not sure if she will be able to come today.

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Augie Selego, 7-year-old nephew of Rebecca Salimbene**, was hit by a car Nov 26 and suffered a broken femur. He had successful surgery and has gone home. He is currently unable to stand and uses a wheelchair to move around. He will require extensive therapy. To send a card: August Selego c/o Netta Selego, 18805 Maisons Dr, Lutz, Fl 33558
- **Patty Brookover, 87, the mother of Debbie Blaise**, has a broken pelvis & ribs. She recently returned to the hospital in Belpre, Ohio, but is improving. The plan is to move her to a rehab center in the next few days. If you care to send her a card: Patty Brookover, 171 Lubeck Road, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101.

## Special Announcements

- **Erik & Deeanne Quist** were victimized by a used car scam and have signed an attorney but fear a long process to get a resolution.

## TRAVELING

- **Debbie Blaise** is in West Virginia/Ohio in caring for her mother & returns Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. She has been at the hospital the last few days and nights.
- **Rory & Rebecca Salimbene** are in Clearwater until Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Tom & Susan Holliday** are out of town and return Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mary Burns** is in California with her two sisters helping an aging aunt who does not have any family. She returns Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

## SHUT-IN:

- Anne Dickson, Geny Harrison, Lynna Davis, Pat Steele, and Bea DeBoe



**For More Announcements: Please Go To The Back Page of this Bulletin.....**

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS For Members

### **The Passing of Rory Salimbene's mother:**

**Shirley Salimbene, the 91-year-old mother of Rory Salimbene,** passed away in her home Friday night, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Rory went to check on her situation. Her passing was unexpected, but it appears that it was peaceful. She had suffered from chronic age-related conditions. Rory says they feel blessed that she was able to spend Thanksgiving with the family. As the rest of Shirley's family is out of state and Shirley's burial plot is in Ohio, the family is having her ashes interred in Ohio on March 18<sup>th</sup> with a graveside service for the family only. Rory will be transporting the ashes to Ohio. No local services or memorial are planned.

## RTL-REACHING THE LOST

### **True Inner Peace –**

**In November we began a Test Launch of our Reaching the Lost** evangelism effort. You can help by signing up for the True Inner Peace Process at [www.trueinnerpeace.com](http://www.trueinnerpeace.com). We need you to sign up, during November and December, so you can help us test this new website. Then we can begin the Official Launch in January. Your feedback is vital

## GIVING TO PSD ONLINE

You may use Zelle to give your contribution. One option is to go to your bank's app and log in to initiate a Zelle payment. Please use [psdgiving@gmail.com](mailto:psdgiving@gmail.com) as the payee.



This is a QR Code for you to use to give your contribution to the PSD church of Christ. There is no fee for either the church or the giver. This QR Code will help you start the process. If you have any questions, please see Rory or Tim or Herb. We are happy to help.

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