



## Closed Hand, Open Hand - Acts 21:17-26

1. In Acts 21:17 we see that the church in Jerusalem greeted Paul and his team with joy and warmth. When there is tension under the surface, how can a warm greeting and genuine love disarm any possible attempt by the enemy to bring division?
2. Read Acts 21:19-20. Why is important for us to encourage one another with what God has been doing in our lives and through our ministries?
3. We see in Acts 21:21 that people were making all sorts of false claims about Paul and what he was teaching people. How should we respond to people who spread rumors or make false statements about us? 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
4. It can be tempting to take open handed issues and put them in the closed hand. What are some open handed issues that we tend to put in the closed hand?
5. When we put things that should be in an open hand in the closed hand we become legalistic by putting burdens on ourselves and others that God never authorized. How do we seek to live at peace and in love with those with whom we disagree? To put it another way, how are we as disciples of Christ supposed to respond when there is disagreement in regards to open handed issues?
6. What are some other open handed issues that we have a tendency to make close handed?

### Close Handed Doctrines (Salvation Doctrines)

1. The Bible is the word of God.
2. The Triune nature of God (Trinity).
3. The fall and sinfulness of man. *Romans 3:23*
4. Salvation by grace through faith. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
5. Christ's virgin birth. *Matthew 1:23*
6. Christ's full deity and full humanity.
7. Christ's sinlessness. *Hebrews 4:15*
8. Christ's atoning death. *Ephesians 1:7*
9. Christ's bodily resurrection. *Luke 24:39*
10. Bodily ascension of Christ into heaven. *Acts 1:9-11*
11. Christ's current priestly intercession.  
*Hebrews 7:22-25*
12. Christ's bodily future second coming. *Acts 1:11*

### Open Handed Doctrines (Non-salvation doctrines)

1. Forms of church government.
2. Our role/God's role in salvation.
3. Proper mode of baptism.
4. The nature and function of communion.
5. The use of musical instruments in worship.
6. The nature of charismatic spiritual gifts.
7. What day we worship.
8. End-times viewpoints (eschatology).
9. The role of women in the church.
10. Use of alcohol.
11. Use of tobacco products.
12. How we vote, etc.