

This Week in Kailua-Kona: AGREED



**Social media today equate agreeing with liking.
If I give you a Facebook thumbs up, it means I like you.
Thumbs down? I don't like you.
We take disagreement personally.**

I can't get to "agreed" from "disagreed" in 160 characters or less.

Agreed—success in the art of living involves:

- **loving people**
- **more than achieving personal recognition,**
- **falling and getting back up again,**
- **more than finishing first,**
- **exercising generosity to the 'other'**
- **more than being selfish,**
- **rooting out corruption**
- **more than amassing wealth**

**But do my actions agree with my words?
How much time does a young person spend
getting good grades (like a 4.0 GPA),
compared to building good friendships?**

**How much time do parents spend checking their
child's grades online compared to rewarding the
kid on being decent and kind to his friends?**

**How much time do we adults spend exercising
generosity and hospitality toward the "other,"
compared to making a buck?**

**How much time do I spend inviting persons of
color, other faiths, or foreigners into my home?**

**I agree that Jesus' sermon on the mount was a
great speech, but I watch movies where good guys
kill bad people for good reasons, or bad people kill
good people for bad reasons.**

**Do my movie habits agree with Jesus' words to
turn the other cheek when another slaps me?
or do I want to slap, stab, or shoot back, like the
action figure I watched in the last movie?**



**This week we hosted a lovely, chosen
family of ours—one with small children.
Sometimes we agreed with the parents'
ways and means of disciplining.**

Other times we did not.

**Did we tactfully disagree with them?
Did we agree that God had given our family
an assignment to work things out?**

Yes.

**We did all that, plus we agreed to take
space where it was needed.**

**We sometimes agreed to disagree.
We told them they were better parents than
we were grandparents.
They smiled & hugged us.**

**We agreed that this was a hard and grand
patch of ground for us to all walk together.
We agreed that God had called us to love
more than give in to frustration and fatigue.**

We lived out Isaiah 58, best we could.

Agreed.

