



Message #106: Differences of Opinion

March 19, 2017

Sermon Notes

Is there any lifestyle behavior of mine that is causing another Christian problems? Am I willing to stop that behavior for the sake of unity?

Is my character one that tends to want to rule all things as being disputable or nothing as being disputable? Why am I this way? How can I become more balanced in this?

How can I work to maintain unity at ABC and at the same time respect the diversity of those within our church?

19. How can I *be devoted to prayer* on one another's behalf this week?

Quotes to Ponder

Whatever spiritual strength we have, we have in and from the Lord. And when we become proud and self-satisfied, the Lord may see fit to withdraw some of His strength and blessing in order to remind us of how weak every believer is in himself.

John MacArthur

One who is weak ought not to despise one who manifests liberty, and one who manifests liberty ought not to despise one with a scrupulous conscience.

R. C. Sproul

We must guard against thinking that almost every area is a disputable matter of conscience, and against the view that hardly any area is a disputable matter of conscience.

If you are saved by grace alone, there is no need to feel you can or must somehow keep God's favor through rules and regulations.

Timothy Keller

Christianity is grounded on our faith in the atoning Christ, not in our commitment to human scruples.

S. Lewis Johnson, Jr.

Paul's concern is not so much with the "rights" and "wrongs" of this particular issue but with the "peace" and "mutual edification" of the body of Christ.

Douglas Moo

*A Christian is a most free lord of all, subject to none.
A Christian is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

Martin Luther

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. After reading *Romans 14:1-15:13*, what is a *strong* Christian? What is a *weak* Christian?
3. In what areas am I *strong*? *Weak*?
4. What principles does Paul give in this passage for dealing with a conflict between *weak* and *strong* Christians in the local church?
5. In this passage is Paul advocating for us to accept and welcome any doctrinal belief? Explain.
6. According to *Romans 14:1*, what does Paul command the strong to do? Explain.
7. Why do we often try to change the behavior of others so that they live according to our list of things we should and shouldn't do?
8. Are the problems Paul addresses on Christian liberty in *Romans 14:1-15:13* spiritual or cultural problems? Explain.
9. If you struggle with your liberty in Christ, how can the truth of justification by faith alone free you to think biblically?
10. How much time should be spend on straightening out the views of other Christians in grey areas? How can time be better spent?
11. What is your commitment toward a Christian who has a limited understanding of his liberties in Christ? Are you making sacrifices of your liberties on his behalf (*1 Corinthians 8:9*)?
12. What are some things we should do before we decide that Scripture is not explicit on an issue, and that therefore it is a disputable matter?
13. When Scripture is not explicit on an issue, how should we decide what is right and wrong?
14. Read *Galatians 5:13*. We are free in Christ, but for what purpose does Paul say our freedom is to be used?
15. Do two Christians have to agree on everything regarding things that the Bible doesn't address? Why or why not?
16. Is it possible for the same thing to be sin for one Christian and not sin for another? Explain.
17. Why does Paul in *Romans 14-15* command us not to judge others, but elsewhere (*1 Corinthians 5:3, 12, 13*) he rebukes the church for not judging a man?
18. **Reflection Questions:** Am I despising or passing judgment on some one over a disputable matter?
Have I been guilty of judging, i.e., forcing my views on another? How will I correct this?
Have I ever limited my freedom for the sake of a brother? What did it cost me? Was it worth it?
Have I made a fellow believer answerable to me instead of God?