

ROMANS

the GOSPEL

Chapters 14-15:13

July 23, 2017

Message #120: *Principles on Disagreeing*

Sermon Notes

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| <p>STRONG CONSCIENCE</p> <p>but carelessly crossing the line into lawlessness and immorality</p> <p>eats meat</p> | <p>STRONG CONSCIENCE</p> <p>but looking down on those with a weaker conscience</p> <p>eats meat</p> | <p>STRONG CONSCIENCE</p> <p>fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than looking down on those with a weaker conscience</p> <p>eats meat</p> | <p>STRONG CONSCIENCE</p> <p>but free to be flexible in disputable matters in order to (1) edify fellow believers and (2) advance the gospel</p> <p>flexible</p> | <p>WEAK CONSCIENCE</p> <p>fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than judging those with a stronger conscience</p> <p>doesn't eat meat</p> | <p>WEAK CONSCIENCE</p> <p>but judging those with a stronger conscience</p> <p>doesn't eat meat</p> | <p>WEAK CONSCIENCE</p> <p>but crossing the line into legalism</p> <p>doesn't eat meat</p> |
| <p>"I have freedom not only to eat meat but to go to parties at idol temples." (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20-22)</p> <p>HERESY</p> <p>Distorts the gospel by lawless subtraction</p> | <p>"I have freedom to eat meat, and those who don't are being unreasonable and are in theological error."</p> <p>ARROGANCE</p> <p>Diminishes the gospel</p> | <p>"I have freedom to eat meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."</p> <p>LOVE</p> <p>Reveals the gospel</p> | <p>"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9:22b) (The goal of every believer)</p> <p>LOVE</p> <p>Magnifies the gospel</p> | <p>I abstain from eating meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."</p> <p>LOVE</p> <p>Reveals the gospel</p> | <p>"It's sinful to eat meat, and Christians who do so are being unfaithful to God."</p> <p>JUDG-MENTALISM</p> <p>Diminishes the gospel</p> | <p>"You must follow the Old Testament dietary restrictions if you want to be a Christian."</p> <p>HERESY</p> <p>Distorts the gospel by legalistic addition</p> |

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Principles on Disagreeing

1. Accept those who disagree with you (*Romans 14:1-2*)
2. If you have freedom of conscience don't look down on those who don't (*Romans 14:3-4*)
3. If your conscience restricts you, don't be judgmental toward those who have freedom (*Romans 14:3-4*)
4. Be fully convinced of your position in your own conscience (*Romans 14:5*)
5. Assume others are partaking or abstaining for the glory of God (*Romans 14:6-9*)
6. Don't judge others in these things because we will all stand before God's judgment seat (*Romans 14:10-12*)
7. Don't let your freedom cause others to stumble (*Romans 14:13-15*)
8. Disagreements about debatable things aren't important in the kingdom of God; building each other up in righteousness, peace, and joy is the important thing (*Romans 14:16-21*)
9. If you have freedom, don't flaunt it; if you're conscience restricts you, don't expect others to do the same (*Romans 14:22*)
10. Live according to your conscience and be blessed (*Romans 14:22-23*)
11. Follow Christ's example and put others first (*Romans 15:1-3*)
12. Bring glory to God by accepting others as Christ has accepted you (*Romans 15:5-7*)

Questions to Ask When Deciding on Debatable Issues

1. Does it violate Scripture? (*John 14:15; 1 John 2:3*)
2. Does it violate the laws or rules of those in authority over me? (*Romans 13:1; Ephesians 6:1*)
3. Does it do harm to my mind or body? (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)
4. Does it control me and/or my actions? (*1 Corinthians 6:12*)
5. Is it motivated by something other than God's love for others? (*1 Corinthians 10:24*)
6. Does it go against my conscience? (*Romans 14:5; 1 Corinthians 8:7; 1 John 3:19-21*)
7. Does it glorify someone other than God? (*1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31*)
8. Will this be a hindrance to non-Christians around me? Does it hurt my witness to them? (*Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:32-33; Colossians 4:5*)
9. Will it offend or cause other Christians to stumble and sin? (*Romans 14:21-23; 1 Corinthians 8:9; 10:23-32*)
10. Will this hinder my own spiritual growth? (*Hebrews 12:1*)
11. Is there a better use of my time and/or resources? (*Psalms 90:12; Ephesians 5:15-16*)
12. Could this be done in Christ's name? Can I imagine Jesus doing this? Would I want to be found doing this when Jesus returns? (*Colossians 3:17; 1 John 2:6; 2:28*)