

Dealing with Disputable Matters

Romans 14:1-12

Introduction

I Dealing with Disputable Matters: Food

- A. We are to **accept** those whose faith is weak - Rom 15:7
 - 1. One man's faith allows him to eat everything - Acts 10
 - 2. One man's faith allows him only vegetables - 1 Tim 4:1-3
- B. We are not to pass **judgment** - 1 Cor 8:9-13
 - 1. The "strong" must not look down on the "weak"
 - 2. The "weak" must not condemn the "strong"
- C. We are not to judge someone else's servant - Jude 1:24-25
 - 1. For God has **accepted** him
 - 2. To his own master he stands or falls
 - 3. And he will **stand** for the Lord is able to make him stand

II Dealing with Disputable Matters: Special Days

- A. People have different views on "**Special Days**"
 - 1. One man considers one day more sacred - Col 2:16-17
 - 2. One man considers every day alike - Gal 4:9-10
- B. Each person should be fully **convinced** - Rom 14:22-23
 - 1. To the one who regards one **day** as special:
 - a. He does so to the Lord - Col 3:17
 - 2. To the one who **eats** meat: - 1 Tim 4:3-5
 - a. He eats to the Lord for he gives thanks to the Lord
 - 3. To the one who **abstains** from meat: - 1 Cor 10:31
 - a. He abstains to the Lord and gives thanks to the Lord

III Dealing with Disputable Matters: Attitude

- A. We are not to live for **ourselves**
 - 1. None of us lives to himself alone - Phil 2:3-4
 - 2. None of us dies to himself alone - 1 Cor 10:33
- B. We are to live for the **Lord**
 - 1. If we live, we live for the Lord - 2 Cor 5:14-15
 - 2. If we die, we die to the Lord - Phil 1:20-21
- C. We are not our **own** - 1 Cor 6:18-20
 - 1. If we live we belong to the Lord

- 2. If we die we belong to the Lord

IV Dealing with Disputable Matters: Eternal Perspective

- A. Jesus Christ is the only one **qualified** to judge others
 - 1. Christ died and returned to life – Rev 5:9
 - a. That He might be the Lord of the dead
 - b. That He might be the Lord of the living
- B. We are **not qualified** to judge others - 1 Cor 4:2-5
 - 1. It is not appropriate for us to judge our brother
 - 2. It is not appropriate for us to look down on our brother
- C. Jesus Christ is the only qualified judge - 2 Cor 5:10
 - 1. We will all have to stand before God's **judgment seat**
 - a. Every knee will bow before Him
 - b. Every tongue will confess to God - Phil 2:9-11
 - 2. We will all have to give an **account** to God - 1 Cor 3:12-15

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

- 1. How do you tend to react to others whose opinions, standards and practices differ from yours?
- 2. Take a few moments to consider the distinctions between vital theological doctrines and disputable matters. How can we know when an issue is "disputable" and when it is vital?
- 3. What are the disputable issues in the church today? Have you ever allowed a disputable issue to become a point of contention between you and another believer? What was the outcome? In light of Romans 14:1-12, how should you have responded?
- 4. Take a few moments to evaluate your life. Are you guilty of looking down on or condemning because their views on disputable issues differ from yours? If so, take a moment to ask God to forgive you for judging His servant and if you have had a conflict with a fellow believer over a disputable matter, go to that individual and repent, ask their forgiveness and pray together for a heart of charity toward one another.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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