

Sermon Notes

Love in Disagreement: Unity Amidst Diversity

Romans 14:1–23 (CSB)

Big Idea

We can disagree on non-essential issues but still love each other deeply as we pursue unity in Christ, reflecting His grace in our relationships.

Proposition

Because Christ has welcomed us by grace, we must pursue unity by loving one another through our differences.

Introduction

Key Question

What do we do when Christians disagree?

Paul is not discussing:

- The deity of Christ
- The resurrection
- Salvation by grace
- The authority of Scripture
- Biblical morality

Paul is discussing:

- Disputable matters
- Secondary issues
- Matters of conscience

Remember

The enemy loves to use secondary issues to destroy primary relationships.

1. Welcome Without Judgment

Romans 14:1–4

Key Verse

"Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters." (Romans 14:1)

Main Truth

Because Christ has welcomed us, we refuse to reject one another over disputable matters.

Two Common Dangers

The Strong:

- Despise
- Look down on others

The Weak:

- Judge
- Condemn others

Key Principle

If God has accepted them, who are we to reject them?

Personal Reflection

- Have I elevated preferences to God's commands?
- Have I judged another believer unfairly?
- Am I extending the same grace Christ has extended to me?

2. Prioritize Purpose Over Preference

Romans 14:5–9

Key Verse

"Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." (Romans 14:8)

Main Truth

Because we belong to the Lord, our preferences must bow to His purposes.

Remember

Believers should:

- Develop convictions
- Study Scripture
- Seek wisdom
- Follow their conscience before God

Key Principle

Preferences make terrible masters because we already belong to a perfect Lord.

Identity Check

Before anything else:

We belong to Jesus.

Personal Reflection

- Have my preferences become part of my identity?
 - Am I more concerned about being right or honoring Christ?
 - Is Jesus truly Lord over this area of my life?
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3. Pursue Peace Through Love

Romans 14:10–23

Key Verses

"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

"So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another." (Romans 14:19)

Main Truth

Because God is the Judge, we are free to become peacemakers.

Remember Who the Judge Is

God knows:

- Hearts
- Motives
- Intentions

Key Principle

The church has enough judges. What it needs are peacemakers.

Protect One Another

Instead of asking:

What are my rights?

Ask:

How can I help my brother follow Jesus?

Key Principle

Just because you can doesn't always mean you should.

Pursue What Builds Up

The Kingdom of God is about:

- Righteousness
- Peace
- Joy in the Holy Spirit

Not:

- Winning arguments
- Defending preferences
- Proving our point

Personal Reflection

- Am I building people up or tearing them down?
 - Am I helping others grow spiritually?
 - Am I known more as a peacemaker or a critic?
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Invitation

Consider These Questions

- Have I elevated preferences above people?
 - Have I judged another believer's motives?
 - Is there someone I need to reconcile with?
 - Have I confused convictions with commands?
 - Am I pursuing peace?
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Gospel Invitation

The greatest division in your life was never between you and another believer.

It was between you and God.

Jesus Christ:

- Lived the perfect life
- Died for our sins
- Rose again from the grave
- Offers forgiveness and reconciliation to all who trust Him

The gospel makes peace possible.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples of disputable matters Christians disagree about today?
2. Why is it tempting to judge believers who hold different convictions?

3. What is the difference between a conviction and a command from God?
 4. Why is our identity in Christ more important than our preferences?
 5. How can Christians pursue peace without compromising truth?
 6. What does it mean to limit your liberty out of love for another believer?
 7. Is there a relationship in your life where God may be calling you to pursue reconciliation?
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Closing Truth

In a world that divides over everything, the church should be different—not because we have fewer convictions, but because we have a greater Savior.

Because Christ has welcomed us by grace, we pursue unity by loving one another through our differences.