

Disputable Matters

Romans 14

Sermon Discussion Questions

2/19/17

This week's message dealt with issues that can tend to lead to strong differences of opinion and tough discussion. Take a moment (if you haven't already) and ask the Lord to bless your time together and to instill a spirit of grace, humility and love for each other.

1. Pastor Jim started his message posing some very real examples of needing to make a decision or choice on a matter of which Scripture does not directly speak. Have you ever faced such scenarios? If so, share a couple of examples.
2. Romans 14:1 calls us to "accept the one whose faith is weak without quarreling over disputable matters." Pastor Jim took some time to explain that "accept" means welcome, that "without quarreling" points to issues we need not fight over and then made the point that when it comes to what is "disputable," only God defines that. Share a time when you either found it hard to accept someone over an issue or when you felt alienated based on a belief or choice.
3. Pastor Jim pointed out five principles from the passage today. One of them was "do not judge." Have someone read Romans 14:2-4 and Matthew 7:1-5. Discuss what these verses are saying and what that looks like in your everyday life. What is God guarding us from and what does He say He will do?
4. Another principle was that of there being "no gray" from verses 5-12. Have someone read them and share how you feel about the idea that two Christians could look at the same choice, same issue and come to different conclusions. Is this easy to accept? difficult? Why?
5. When discussing stumbling blocks in verses 13-21, Pastor Jim made sure to mention that this is NOT about whether to do or not do things others don't like. It is however about placing God as the authority and thinking of others above ourselves. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and share what these verses/sections have in common.
6. Looking back at the message, probably most of you have a story, an example, a struggle or a person that God has brought to mind. Before you take time to pray and close, take a moment and ask the Lord if there's something you need to share. An encouraging word, a challenge, confession of a doubt or fear, an ask for prayer and help? What is God stirring in your heart as you've talked about disputable matters?
7. As he came to the close of the message, Pastor Jim assured us that even though this paints a messy picture, that there will still be questions, that we need not be worried. He called on us to take this matters to God in prayer and pray as families. He assures us that the Spirit will guide all of those who seek wisdom in these matters. Take some time to pray over the coming weeks, pray for wisdom, for grace and humility.

Note: There are another two principles from the message that I did not feel led to expound upon for sake of time and space but as you pray, feel free to engage in those as you feel led.