

How to Disagree and Stay True to Godly Principles
Wednesday, November 4, 2020

- * There is nobody that agrees 100% with anyone else!
- * Within your family, your marriage or even your church family, disagreements are bound to be around many corners!
- * Why is it that we are not more prepared for this occurrence?
- * Is it because we concentrate more on being correct than we are in maintaining a healthy relationship with others?
- * The Lord DOES have an opinion on this subject! There is a very well expressed way to walk together “on two different paths” all the while “walking together!”
- * Let’s take a journey together through part of Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome! A Church of enormous diversity!

1. Acceptance without argument:

Romans 14:1-2 (NLT)

Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. 2 For instance, one person believes it’s all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

2. Don’t try to be Lord and conscience of another person:

Romans 14:3-4 (NLT)

Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don’t. And those who don’t eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? Their own master will judge whether they

stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

3. Allow for other to grow, change and adjust as more truth is realized:

Romans 14:5 (NLT)

In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable.

4. Give room for others to follow what they feel is proper:

Romans 14:6-9 (NLT)

6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

5. Don't condemn and "look down" on others:

Romans 14:10-12 (NLT)

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For the Scriptures say, "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God." 12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

6. Leave room for others to believe and practice that belief. It is between them and their Lord:

Romans 14:13-15 (NLT)

13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. 14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died.

7. God seems to constantly communicate to us how important relationships are! People are more important than my being correct!

Romans 14:16-21 (NLT)

16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. 17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. 20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

8. Let your beliefs be yours but DO NOT try to impress them upon others. Let the Lord lead in this:

Romans 14:22-23 (NLT)

22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

9. Finally, Paul makes it clear, that we must “put others first:”

Romans 15:1-6 (NLT)

Living to Please Others

15 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3 For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.” 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. 5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

10. When we do this, we bring glory to God:

Romans 15:7 (NLT)

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.