

When You Don't See Eye to Eye

FAMILY THEME: Selfless Living STUDY TEXT: Romans 14:1—15:7

January 27, 2019

Romans 14:1-12

Choose to accept believers who have differing opinions about disputable matters. We live in a culture in which differing opinions, regardless of the subject, are divisive and controversial. As believers, however, we must be able to discern which doctrines and ideas are nonnegotiable or non-debatable and which ones are not. Once these lines have been drawn, it is imperative that we accept one another, regardless of the difference of opinions in debatable matters. This may never lead to agreement on certain issues, but respect is key. Make the choice to accept others and their ideas in debatable matters, even when they do not match your own. **Discussion:**

- What are some “debatable” matters that cause disputes and division in churches?
- When it comes to doctrinal matters, what are some of the issues that are non-negotiable for you?

Romans 14:13-23

Always look out for the spiritual welfare of fellow believers. One of the challenges of our depraved nature is the selfishness that tends to reveal itself. This happens often in relation to fellow believers. We tend to get hung up on our “rights” and “liberties” as opposed to giving thought to how it may impact those around us. Having heard Paul’s extended admonition regarding these matters, we must recognize our responsibility toward our brothers or sisters in Christ. Being confident in the strength of your own faith, look out for those around you. They are watching your life and how you respond, and we should never place a stumbling block before them that would hinder or impair their growth. **Discussion:**

- What does it mean for both the “weak” and the “strong” not to pass judgment on one another?
- How should the welfare of our brothers and sisters in Christ guide our choices?

Romans 15:1-7

Glorify God by living in harmony, putting others’ needs ahead of our own. Love and sacrifice are signs of spiritual maturity. This was demonstrated in Christ and now we have the opportunity to act in the same way. While the differences may never be resolved, we can still live in harmony with one another. This is only accomplished, however, as we learn to put the needs of others first. Strive to live this way and bring glory to God by doing so. He is best represented by a body of believers who are living in harmony with one another. **Discussion:**

- Share a time when you’ve seen a lack of harmony among believers. How did that affect their fellowship and ministry to one another? What impact did that have on the reputation of the Body of Christ?
- What might it look like to put others needs and desires ahead of our own? What are some examples of this?