

## WHEN CHRISTIANS DISAGREE *Part 2*

### A QUICK LOOK BACK:

### THE PASSAGE:

Romans 14:1-15:13

### BRINGING IT HOME:

(1) Why is it so hard to disagree **AGREEABLY**?

- *It all started with **Adam***  
Genesis 3-4 Galatians 5:19-21 & Romans 1:29-32
- *Relationships naturally and inevitably **Fall Apart***  
Ephesians 4:3 Romans 14:19 & 15:1

(2) What's worth **FIGHTING** and **DIVIDING** over?

Galatians 1:8-9 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

- **Salvation** and **Sin**

(3) Some things are better left **UNSAID**.

Romans 14:22-23 Proverbs 30:5-6 1 Corinthians 11:17-19

- Keep **Silent** when the Bible is **Silent**
- Personal **Legalism** is a good thing IF it remains **Personal**

(4) The greater our **DIFFERENCES**, the greater God's **GLORY**.

Romans 15:5-7 John 13:35 Matthew 10:2-4

(5) God draws **STRAIGHT** lines with **CROOKED** sticks.

1 Kings 3 Romans 14:4

## Food for Thought for the week of July 30, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. It can be no small challenge to listen to others when dealing with push back or disagreement on issues that aren't clear. Though at times it's appropriate to kindly walk away, being willing to hear a different point of view is part of respecting others. How do the following verses help us to know how to listen to others, even when we disagree?

**Proverbs 10:19** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>19</sup> Sin is not ended by multiplying words,  
but the prudent hold their tongues.

**Proverbs 12:15** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> The way of fools seems right to them,  
but the wise listen to advice.

**Proverbs 12:16** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> Fools show their annoyance at once,  
but the prudent overlook an insult.

**Proverbs 17:27** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>27</sup> The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,  
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.

**Proverbs 18:2** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>2</sup> Fools find no pleasure in understanding  
but delight in airing their own opinions.

2. We all know that when controversy comes between two people who disagree, frustration can cause the situation to become more heated than need be. When the heat gets turned up, too often those involved can lose the ability to work toward resolution or agreeing to disagree. How do the following passages help us keep the situation moving toward resolution and not just arguing over the issue?

**Proverbs 15:1** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Unity and Diversity in the Body*

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**1 Corinthians 12:21-26** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**Ephesians 4:3 & 29** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**1 Peter 2:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Which of the above responses comes easiest to you? Which is most challenging?

3. Larry talked this weekend about the importance of setting up “personal legalisms” that can help us avoid giving into temptation. How do the following verses help reinforce the importance of thinking this through for your own life?

**James 4:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

**Philippians 4:8-9** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**2 Timothy 2:22** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>22</sup> Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Are there any personal legalisms you need to add or could even subtract in your life?

Are there any personal legalisms in your life you need to stop projecting onto others?