



STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 10.04.2015

[set up]

When have you had a conflict with another believer over a difference of opinion related to a spiritual matter? What were the issues and did your difference of opinion get resolved?

How can followers of Christ having tensions and disputes over varying opinions be counterproductive to growing God's kingdom and reaching the lost?

[digging deeper]

Read Romans 14. What are some immediate or impacting observations from this passage? What are some questions that arise for you?

If you need some extra context for the issue in this passage, quickly check out this link:
<http://www.gotquestions.org/food-sacrificed-idols.html>

Christians need to be loving and yet stand firm, especially on doctrinal and theological issues. But there are other issues that may be more traditional or preferential in nature. Take on this exercise to identify some modern day examples that would be the equivalent to this early church issue of diet and days. If in a LifeGroup, form two groups. Group one - Take 5 minutes to list issues that are worth standing firm on (primary and foundational/essential issues). Group two - Take 5 minutes to list issues that are *not* worth arguing over (secondary or non-foundational/essential issues). Get back together afterward to share your lists and discuss your findings.

Look up the following verses and write down one big idea from each passage that relates to what the Apostle Paul is teaching us in Romans 14:

- 1 Cor. 8:6-7 _____
- 1 Cor. 10:23-33 _____
- Mark 7:15-19 _____
- Titus 1:15 _____
- 1 Tim. 1:19 _____
- 1 Peter 2:16 _____

What should be our guiding principle or primary objective in navigating issues that can cause division or tension with other believers, especially those who may be “weaker” than we are?

How do we live out a foundational conviction without causing division or harm to another Christian?

How do we apply these principles to those who do not yet know Christ?

[living it out]

What has been a non-essential spiritual view on which you have found yourself judging or avoiding another believer to the point that it has damaged your relationship? If appropriate, are you willing to get in touch with them and ask for their forgiveness and commit to walk in love with them from now on? Maybe you were on the receiving end of the issue... if appropriate, would you be willing to get in touch and offer forgiveness?

If no one comes to mind, what is a take away application that you can apply from this lesson starting today?

Close this time in prayer. Your prayer time can include:

- Confession and repentance for anything God convicted you of in this time.
- Praying for the Holy Spirit to give you insight and sensitivity in applying Romans 14.
- Praying for unity in the church so we can be a brighter light to those who do not know Jesus.
- Pray for those who do not know Christ (your 10|24 card names) and that, by walking in love with them and with other believers, you will help make Jesus more attractive as you pray for them and share with them.