Getting Along When We Differ

Mike Moriarty · Romans 14:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- These verses, as we've discovered the last three or four months, are often misapplied.
- Anytime we study scripture, we need to make sure we … study all the relevant context.

1 Knowledge Puffs Up, but Love Edifies

1 Corinthians 8:1–6

- Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
- Having knowledge does not mean the issue is settled.
- The spiritually knowledgeable know that they do not know.
- Rather than boasting about knowledge, the goal is to love God.
- Having the love we ought to have for God is how we are known by God.

2 A Stumbling Block Means Causing a Person to Sin

1 Corinthians 8:7–12

- In Scripture, being offended does not mean you disagree with something.
- An offense or a stumbling block in Scripture means you are causing a person to sin.
- If something someone else does is not sinful, but you just don't like it, that is not a stumbling block.
- The issue is not whether the food is okay or not, but where they were eating it.
- By causing other people to sin, you are sinning, verse 12.

3 Faith Cannot Be Separated From Our Behaviors

1 Corinthians 8:13

- If there is something I am doing that would cause another person to sin, I will not do it.
- Paul has taught in this chapter that knowledge is not the primary ground for Christian behavior.
- Love for God and love for others is an important component of our faith and how we make our life decisions.
- Faith cannot be separated from our behaviors. Faith and works always go together. Our actions reflect our faith.

4 Accept the One Who Is Weak in Faith

Romans 14:1–23

- Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

- Romans 14 deals with Christians who are not getting along over things that didn't matter to God.
- God doesn't care if they eat meat or not. God doesn't care if they work on Saturday or not. He does care when they judge their brother for eating meat.
- At the end of verse 3, Paul simply states that God accepts them all.
- The key is whatever we choose, honor God.

5 Each of Us Will Stand Before God

Romans 14:10

- Each of us will stand before the judgment seat of God. It is God we are to be concerned about.
- First of all, let God do his job as judge.
- On matters of opinion, it is not for us to judge one another.
- Secondly, we must be careful when we do choose to judge.
- God will decide whether we stand or fall.

THE CHALLENGE

Where God doesn't care, one way or another, we need to accept one another's opinion without judging or condemning.

MY NOTES