Opinions & Attitudes

Brent Moody · Romans 14:1–15:7

INTRODUCTION

- Opinions are the good part of this, but it's the attitudes where there is struggle, where there's difficulty.
- Know the time you're in. Now it's time to fight. Fight evil, not each other.
- Even within single issues, we exist somewhere on a continuum.

1 Some Differences of Opinion Do Not Demand Agreement

Romans 14:1; 1 Corinthians 8

- Some differences of opinion do not demand reaching agreement.
- Nowhere does Paul say here or in 1 Corinthians 8 through 10 that we have to change somebody's mind.
- We should welcome them, and we should do so, but not to quarrel, not to argue over opinions.

2 Three Levels of Issues

Romans 14:1; Romans 14:3–4

- You cannot be a follower of Jesus Christ and deny some things. Those are level one issues.
- There are level two issues where unity is hard in leadership and membership if we disagree on certain things.
- Level three disagreements. These are disagreements that should not disrupt unity.
- Most of this is just cultural, ethnic, sociological, generational differences. It doesn't mean they're unimportant.
- If you are fully convinced, you live to the Lord, you give account to him, not anyone else, and you allow the other to do the same.

3 The Real Threat Is Poor Attitudes and Behaviors

- The real threat to unity, the real threat to the progress of the gospel, is poor attitudes and behaviors.
- What we tend to do as humans is we either descend to chaos or we descend to man-made authoritarian order.
- This is where the humility comes in, and recognizing my conscience can actually be wrong.

4 Why Do You Despise Your Brother?

Romans 14:3; Romans 14:20

- The first danger here in attitude and behavior is arrogance through condescension.

- He warns in Romans 14 20 that you can actually destroy the work of God. You can diminish the gospel with such an attitude.
- I can wear jeans to worship, and those who don't are just old fashioned. Arrogant condescension.

5 Why Do You Pass Judgment on Your Brother?

Romans 14:10; Philippians 2

- Why do you pass judgment on your brother? He asks. This is arrogance through judgmentalism.
- It's codifying men's opinions as God's law. That everyone must believe in a specific way, or else they are a heretic and they are unfaithful.
- This is nowhere in Scripture. It is an opinion that men have made up. But it is very easy to take our opinions and make them into God's law.
- We have to be willing to admit that a creation of man is not something worth defending. It's not something worth creating problems over.

6 Keep Your Faith Between Yourself and God

Romans 14:22–23; Romans 14:5–6; Romans 15:3

- The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God.
- You have to walk by faith because violating your faith is sin. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.
- The goal is not getting my way, but truly considering what is actually best for everyone involved.
- Can I remain fully convinced in my mind and honor the Lord without forcing others to agree with me?
- This is about seeking to please my neighbor and not myself. This is about being in the form of Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

You need to put on Jesus Christ and give your life to him, become a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, both in body and in mind, ready to work with his people and work for his purposes for the glory of God.

MY NOTES