

Faith > Fear

"Disputable Matters"

Week of May 17, 2020

Personal Reflection & Group Discussion Guide

1. The Romans verses speak of "disputable matters". Those areas where there was great divide or differing perspectives. In these verses, the points of contention were dietary principles and observance of holy days. What are some reasons you think these were areas of dispute during that time? Do they apply today? What have been some areas of dispute you have come across regarding your faith or beliefs? How did you handle the disputes?
2. The sermon informed us that it's not the actual disputable matters that ensnare us, it is the "black and white" vs "grey area" mindset regarding those matters. In what areas are you more black and white when it comes to your faith walk? In what areas you are more in the grey areas? What does that mindset get you?
3. Paul describes how the strong (meaning mature/wise) respond to disputable matters:
 - v.12: everyone is accountable to God
 - v.13a: do not pass judgement
 - v.13b: do not cause obstacles for the weak
 - v.20: some things need to be discussed between you and God

Based on the above, how do you measure up to those standards when you are in a dispute?

4. Paul's final instruction is that the Kingdom of God is not a matter of rules on eating and drinking and which rituals to observe and when; it is about righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Do you agree or disagree with this? If you agree, do you find yourself stuck in a dispute that can be easily resolved through a shift in perspective? How can you get unstuck?
5. A principle in the Romans verses are that the strong take care of the weak. As you assess your interactions, are you the strong or the weak? What can you do to become the strong(er)?

Main Idea

We can vigorously debate, but we don't have to divide.

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Read these aloud:

Romans 14

1 Corinthians 13:12

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe? (in words, and in deeds)

Mon: _____

Tue: _____

Wed: _____

Thu: _____

Fri: _____

Sat: _____

Sun: _____

This is a constant element, so you can continuously practice the practical

