

Loving Each Other When We Disagree

Introduction 1: Why this sermon?

Introduction 2: What kind of disagreement?

Summary Statement 1: Build up with love, rather than tearing down with arrogance (I Cor. 8:1-3)

Summary Statement 2: Accept one another, rather than judging or despising (Rom. 14:1-4; 15:7)

Christian liberty is every believer's freedom and responsibility to study the Scriptures, guided by the Holy Spirit, and apply the principles to situations not directly addressed by clear Scriptural commands. In other words, it is seeking to understand God's heart, so that we know how to best love Him and others in our particular context.

8 Principles for understanding and applying Christian liberty in the church:

1. Christians *will* differ on what God wants them to do in areas of Christian liberty.
2. Liberty means responsibility.
3. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to make rules for others. (Col. 2:20-23)
4. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to decide whether my brother's decision was right or not.
5. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to change the conscience of my brother. (I Cor. 8)
6. Just because something falls into the area of Christian liberty doesn't mean you should always do it.
7. In areas of liberty, we should limit ourselves if we may cause others to stumble. (Rom. 14:19-21; 15:1-3; Gal. 5:13; I Cor. 10:24; I Cor. 8:13)
8. We must be careful to maintain the distinctions between commands, conscience, and preference.

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