

When We Disagree

Insights on Romans 14:1-23

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, May 20, 2018

Be welcoming...

(Romans 14:1-4, James 2:1-13)

- Don't _____

Why be welcoming?

(Romans 14:4-12, Revelations 20:12)

- They...
- They...
- They...

Following the way of love.

(Romans 14:13-23, 1 Corinthians 9, 2 Corinthians 5:7)

1. Love _____
2. Love _____
3. Love _____
4. Love _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 6” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way! This session of small groups will wrap up the week of June 24th.

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. There is an old phrase, “Never judge a book by it’s cover.” The truth is, the cover may not actually give any credibility to how good the book actually is. When was a time where you “judged” a certain situation, but then were absolutely wrong about that situation?

2. As we talk about “disagreeable” things within the context of the church, when was there a time when you had a disagreement with a person in a church about things not related to sin or salvation? How did this disagreement work out? What lessons did you learn about dealing with disagreements?

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. This weekend we were reminded that a great way to overcome our differences is to walk the way of love, which often times means rising above the conflict. How might the following verses simplify this process for those who want to, but don't know how to rise above the conflict?

- **James 4:11-12, Romans 12:16-18, Luke 6:31-36**

As you look back at your life, what differences with others are easiest to overcome? Which are hardest?

Which verse above is the most helpful for you in dealing with some of the more challenging differences you have with others?

2. While most of us acknowledge it is not good to judge people, it can be hard to avoid. It's easy to judge simply because of our life experiences, family upbringing, and all the deep-rooted things that shape how we view others. Jesus had a great way of looking past people's behaviors and engaging them in life-changing ways. What can be learned from Jesus' approach with the people in the following verses that might help us in our interactions?

- **John 8:1-11, Luke 19:1-9, Luke 5:12-32**

How do you think most people would have treated the people Jesus interacted with?

Can you think of any people you tend to avoid but may want to try to help during the next few weeks?

3. Look back at Romans 14:13-15. As followers of Christ we are not to put a stumbling block in the way of a fellow believer. What do these verses mean? What are potential stumbling blocks we can place in front of others? How do we live intentionally in light of these verses?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Pray for God to show you an area of your heart where you have chosen to "live your freedom" at the cost of another. Prayerfully seek the way of love in this instance.
- Is there someone you have been in a disagreement with about a "disputable" matter? Call them this week and pursue peace.
- What is one area this week that God is calling you to live by faith? What action steps can you take to live out your faith in this area this week?

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!