

When We Disagree - part 2

(Insights from Romans 14, 15:1-13)

Bob Johnson, May 27th, 2018, Grace Point Church

A Look Back ... and Look at Romans 15:1-13

Insights On Improving Our Relationships:

1. Why is it hard ... ?

- It all started ...
(Genesis 3-4, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 1:29-32)
- Relationships naturally ...
(Ephesians 4:3, Romans 14:19, 15:1)

2. What is worth ... ?

(Galatians 1:8-9, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

- **S** _____ & **S** _____

3. When is it right ... ?

(Romans 14:22-23, Proverbs 30:5-6, Jeremiah 23:28)

- Offer _____ when the Bible is _____
- Personal _____ are good if they remain personal.

4. The greater our _____ the greater _____

(Romans 15:5-7, John 13:35, Matthew 10:2-4)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 7" of our small group season!
After this week, we have four weeks left before we take a break for July and August.

Looking Back:

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

Related to differences, what is something different about you from most folks that makes you a bit unique?

What are some insights you have learned about how to get along with people that you don't have much in common with?

How have you seen people that are different in some way work together and accomplish something that wouldn't have been possible if they didn't team up?

Looking Up: (Digging Deeper into Scripture)

1. It can be no small challenge to listen to others when dealing with push back or disagreement on issues that aren't clear. Though at times it is appropriate to kindly walk away, being willing to stay engaged and to hear a different point of view is part of respecting others.

How do the following verses from the Book of Proverbs, help us to know how to listen to others, even when we disagree?

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 12:15-16

Proverbs 17:27

Proverbs 18:2

Can you think of any other verses that might be helpful?

2. We all know that when controversy comes between two people who disagree, frustration can cause the situation to become more heated than need be. When the heat gets turned up, too often those involved can lose the ability to work toward resolution or agreeing to disagree.

How do the following passages help us keep the situation moving toward resolution and not just arguing over the issue?

Proverbs 15:1

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

Ephesians 4:3

Ephesians 4:29

1 Peter 2:17

Which of the above responses comes easiest for you?

Which is the most challenging?

3. There are some examples of people engaging disagreements throughout the Bible. One encounter was when Paul disagreed with Peter and chose to confront the situation.

Read Galatians 2:11-21

Based on what we have learned from last Sunday and what we have discussed, how did Paul do?

What would you have done different?

4. Bob talked last Sunday about the importance of setting "personal limits" that can help us avoid giving into temptation.

How do the following verses help reinforce the importance of thinking this through for our own lives?

James 4:17

Philippians 4:8-9

2 Timothy 2:22

Looking Ahead: (Personal Application)

Are there personal limits that would be good to add to your life?

Are there any personal limits that would be good to subtract in your life?

Are there any personal limits in your life that you need to stop projecting onto others?

From what you know of yourself and the Bible, what is one or two practices that would help you improve your relationships?

As we were reminded that relationships naturally break down and fall apart, are there any relationships in your life that need some mending?

If so, what would be a good first step toward rebuilding that relationship?

Read Acts 24:16, Psalm 139:23-24 and Proverbs 28:13.

Usually breakdowns happen because of sin that prompts unloving words and actions. In any broken relationship, it is good to ask God to reveal to us any sin that we have committed that has added to the broken relationship.

With the strained relationship, ask God to bring to your mind any sin you have committed and decide to take responsibility for that sin by asking the other person to forgive you.

Based on this discussion and last Sunday's message, is there any other application that God might prompt you to put into practice?

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other.