

4. Thinking about Romans 14:1 (don't quarrel over disputable matters), how do you decide what is disputable and what isn't? Extra credit: What do you hold onto as indisputable that others might call questionable?

5. Controversy can lead to frustration causing the disagreement over doctrinal issues or issues of church practice to become more heated than they need be. How to the following passages help keep the situation moving toward resolution or agreeing to disagree?

Eph 4:3

Eph 4:29

Hebrews 12:14-15

Which of the above responses comes easiest to you? Which is most challenging?

Prayer Requests:

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO AGREE ON 1 Timothy 2:8-15

We can have an unhealthy interest in unclear issues results in envy, strife, malicious talk and evil suspicions. It leads us to ignore the simple truth that we should lead changed lives and have changed churches.

A call for men to pray ... correctly (2:8)

Lifting holy hands means you loosely hold your desires, anger, bitterness and opinions

Anger alienates your mind from prayer.

Disputing and arguing is the enemy of unity and accomplishing God's purposes

A call for women to focus (2:9-10)

It's not about personal grooming; it's about focus

A call for women to learn (2:11-15)

It's not about surrender of the mind, will, conscience or judgment;
it's about perspective.

It's not about value or priority

(2:13) It's about God's plan

(2:14) It's about our submission to God

(2:15) It's about our relationship to the world's view

Dealing with disagreement

We prioritize

We handle them graciously. We hold our position but maintain grace on questionable issues

We handle them humbly. Dogmatic statements on secondary issues can be divisive and dangerous

We handle them searchingly. We truly seek to find God's truth and not our own preference

Sunday, Jim talked about a tough passage! Was there anything that you learned, that bothered you, challenged you, or encouraged you?

1. Read Matthew 5:23-24. How does this passage apply to the statement from the study, "Anger alienates your mind from prayer"?
2. Read the following passages: Prov 13:10; Prov 15:18; Rom 14:1; 2 Tim 2:14; 1 Tim 6:4; Philip 2:14. If these passages characterize a church, what do you think happens with what God desires in 1 Tim 2:1-4?
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:9. Ephesian women apparently had big problems making physical appearance (hair, clothing, jewelry) the thing that made them significant even above good works. If physical appearance isn't the problem, what might Paul have written to women in our circles?