

July 31, 2022

Attitudes, Part 10

by Warren Berkley

Do Not Quarrel Over Opinions

(Rom.14:1)

[Read the 14th chapter of Romans]

In our treatment of each other, we must never fail to distinguish between matters of faith and matters of opinion. In the time when Paul wrote to the Romans, there were Christians who – due to their cultural/religious background – had different diets that they may not have changed when they became Christians. That's OK.

When you become a Christian you certainly have to change, from sin to righteousness; from false religion to true religion; from bad attitudes to good attitudes; from sinful relationships to right relationships; from disobedience to obedience; from worldliness to godliness. That's all very clear in reading and studying the New Testament.

But if you were a vegetarian before you baptism, you don't have to start eating meat. Likewise, if you enjoyed your pulled pork before you obeyed the gospel, there is not divine requirement to cease pork (see Acts 10:15 and Rom. 14:14).

Most important, I cannot demand that others eat what I eat, or stop eating what they eat, as regards things lawful to consume. There are two things to keep in mind as you read Romans 14. ONE, we do not pass negative judgments against

people because they are not like us, in matters not of faith. "Why do you pass judgment on your brothers? Or why do you despise your brother?" (Verse 10).

TWO, we must guard our attitudes about people who differ with us in regard to these matters of opinion, lest we "destroy the work of God," (verse 20). If in any attitude or conduct, we hinder or neglect the work of God, repentance is needed.

The teaching of this chapter, when embraced by members of a local church, has great value and promise in working together. Business meetings have erupted into wrangles over what color the carpet should be, or whether to have a tree out front or a flower bed. These wrangles need an umpire who blows the whistle, calls foul and prays for forbearance and consensus. If the New Testament doesn't specify such things, they cannot become matters of controversy.

What translation of the English bible should one use? While there are legitimate points of comparison to bring up and observations about translation method, accuracy, etc. Nobody can dictate or mandate a translation. "Why do you pass judgment on your brother?"

"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding," (Rom. 14:19).

Some issues should never affect

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series each Thursday evening through the summer on "Love One Another"

Gospel Meeting - Grissom Road in San Antonio, August 7-12

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

fellowship. Matters of moral or spiritual indifference (to God) are not to affect fellowship in the local church. We are directed to accept a brother who may have

scruples, though not to pass judgment on his opinions (Romans 14:1ff.). In these matters, we are not to judge our brother (14:10, 13) or risk destroying the “work of God for the sake of food” (14:20). Each person in the group is to live by faith in all things, for “whatever is not from faith is sin” (14:23).

Our job is to stay in fellowship with God and everything else, including fellowship with those of “like precious faith” (2 Peter 1:1), will take care of itself. We will have unity and peace and accomplish the work God has given us to do. As John says in his oft-quoted passage: “If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).^[1]

[1] Posey, D. (1997). *Fundamentals of Faith: Faith and Fellowship*. Christianity Magazine, 14(11), 24.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother) is home from the hospital.

Debbie McMurray is recovering from her radiation treatment.

Jayne Wilson had a pacemaker put in and is recovering.

George Gresham is suffering from kidney stones and had a procedure to treat them last Thursday.

Andrea Ayers had surgery on her jaw this past week.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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