

SERMON NOTES

The Mouth Should Not Quarrel With the Hand!

Romans 14:1-15:13 | 4 June 2023 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

Read Romans 14:1-12

1. What “*disputable matters*” had the potential of dividing the Christians at Rome (verses 1-8)? What issues have you seen/heard Christians quibbling about today (whether in Singapore or in other countries)? What were the consequences?
2. What principles here would help us worship together with Christians who disagree on matters that are not essential to the faith? (In other words, how should we treat one another regardless of our convictions?)

Read Romans 14:13-23

3. *“²¹It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.”*
A stumbling block is an act/behavior that causes a Christian brother/sister to fall spiritually.
What could be stumbling blocks in our faith context today?
What should we do if another Christian’s choices are causing us to stumble, or I cause someone to stumble?
4. Study verse 17. What do you see here that might help you through a disagreement with another Christian?

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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Read Romans 15:1-7

5. Romans 15:1 begins, "We who are strong ..." What responsibilities do Christians strong in faith have toward weaker Christians (verses 1-7)?
6. Paul offers a prayer for the Roman Christians in verses 5-6 and then instructions in verse 7. What, according to these verses, does a healthy church to look like?

Some of these questions were taken from "Romans - Encountering the Gospel's Power" by John Stott, and others from "Being a part of God's plan" by Serendipity House.

Summary from John Stott:

"One area in which the distinction between faith and love should operate is in the difference between essentials and non-essentials in Christian doctrine and practice. Although it is not always easy to distinguish between them, a safe guide is that truths on which Scripture speaks with a clear voice are essentials, whereas whenever equally biblical Christians, equally anxious to understand and obey Scripture, reach different conclusions, these must be regarded as non-essentials.

In fundamentals, faith is primary, and we may not appeal to love as an excuse to deny essential faith. In non-fundamentals, however, love is primary, and we may not appeal to zeal for the faith as an excuse for failures in love. Faith instructs our conscience; love respects conscience of others. Faith give liberty; love limits its exercise."

7. Please pray for the unity of your family, your Disciple Group and our church even as you finish your reflection today of Romans 14:1-15:13.

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