LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship Service
November 10, 2019
Pastor Bruce Adrian

Code of Conduct

Lesson One • Romans 14:1-12

When You Don't See Eye-to-Eye

Code of Conduct

Paul's code of conduct for getting along is based on LOVE.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Romans 13:8-9

Contention in the Church

The church at Rome was divided over special DIETS and special DAYS.

Concern of Paul

Paul's ultimate concern was keeping UNITY in the Gospel.

Live in harmony with one another. Romans 12:16

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:5-7

How to Get Along When You Don't See Eye-to-Eye

1. WELCOME Those Who Disagree with You—God Has Welcomed You! *(vs. 1-4)*

Two Kinds of Believers to Welcome (Because God Welcomes Them Both)

- "WEAK" or immature believers in the faith; they haven't fully grasped the extent of their freedom in Christ.

- "STRONG" or mature believers in the faith; they can exercise their freedom in Christ with a clear conscience. *(Rom. 15:1)*

2. FOLLOW Your Own Conscience in "Disputable Matters"—Jesus Is Your Lord! *(vs. 5-9)*

When It Comes to Disputable Matters

- ASSUME that other believers are partaking or refraining from disputable matters for the glory of God.

- ACCEPT that both weak and strong believers can please the Lord even while holding different views on disputable matters.

3. Don't JUDGE Those You Disagree With—We Will Each Answer to God! *(vs. 10-12)*

Two Wrong Responses

- Don't CRITICIZE the weaker believer whose conscience is easily offended and limits their liberty in Christ. *(vs. 3a)*

- Don't CONDEMN the stronger believer whose conscience is more informed and exercises their liberty in Christ. *(vs. 3b)*

The Goal of Every Believer

To MAGNIFY the Gospel by welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed you.

(See Insert "Paul's Code of Conduct")

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7