


There are disputable things over which Christians can disagree and both are acceptable to God.

We are not talking about things that the Scripture clearly lists as sin.


Disputable matters are things not clearly listed in Scripture and they are not sinful.

For example:

- Use of Alcohol – Wine or no wine?
- Dancing – all kinds or just some kinds?
- Bible Translation – King James only or is the NIV or ESV okay?
- Music – hymns only or contemporary choruses?
- Wealth – does it matter what kind of car you drive or the clothes you wear?
- Home School, Public School or Church School – are all three an option for the believer?
- TV or no TV? What about our choice of music and movies?
- Republican or Democrat or Independent?



II. How should we handle our differences?



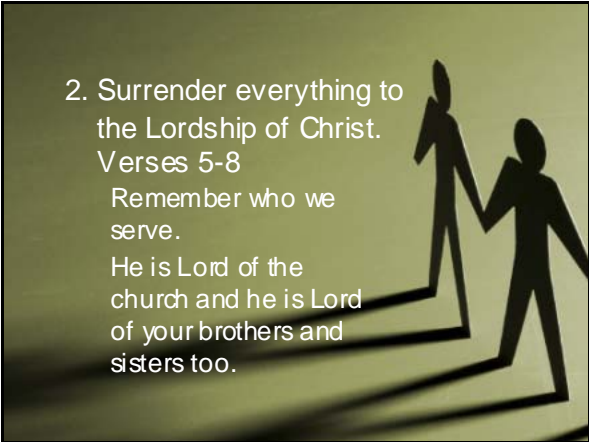
1. Accept one another without passing judgment. Verses 1-4

Don't look down on your brother or sister.

Don't judge your brother or sister.

Give grace and avoid legalism.

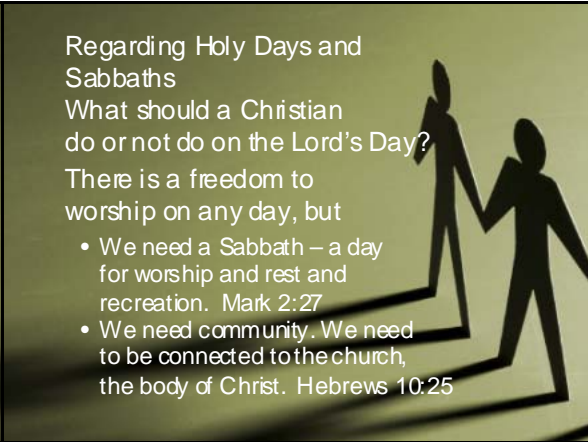
This isn't a reason to break fellowship.



2. Surrender everything to the Lordship of Christ. Verses 5-8

Remember who we serve.

He is Lord of the church and he is Lord of your brothers and sisters too.



Regarding Holy Days and Sabbaths

What should a Christian do or not do on the Lord's Day?

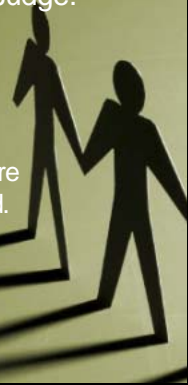
There is a freedom to worship on any day, but

- We need a Sabbath – a day for worship and rest and recreation. Mark 2:27
- We need community. We need to be connected to the church, the body of Christ. Hebrews 10:25

3. Remember God is our Judge.
Verses 9-12

It's not men. It's not one another. It is God who judges.

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.



What will we be accountable for?

- We are accountable to God for our words.

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matthew 12:36-37

- We are accountable to God for our actions.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:10

- We are accountable for our talents.
Matthew 25:14-30
- We are accountable for our money.
Luke 12:13-34
- We are accountable for our time.
Ephesians 5:15-16

Conclusion

We make it our aim to please him in everything we do.

We do that best by loving God and loving his people.



Examine your heart

1. Have you been critical or judgmental of a brother or sister over a disputable matter?
2. Is there someone you have offended by your words and actions?
3. Are there areas of your life that you have not yet surrendered to the Lordship of Christ?

