

Loving Each Other When We Disagree

I Cor. 16:14; Eph. 4:2-3, 29-33; Phil. 1:27; 2:2; 4:5; Col. 3:13-14; I Pet. 3:8-9; 4:9; I John 3:23

Rom. 12:13; II Cor. 8:2, 14; Gal. 6:10; Acts 12:12; Heb. 13:3; Rom. 12:13; I Pet. 4:9; Rom. 12:15; 15:1; II Cor. 1:3-11; Matthew 5:23-24; II Cor. 2:7-8; Gal. 6:1; I Thes. 5:14-15; James 5:19-20; Jude 22-23

Eph. 4:25; Phil. 2:3; Galatians 1:8; 5:15-16; 5:25-26; Col. 2:18-20; II Thes. 3:6f.; I Tim. 5:20; Titus 3:9-11; James 2:1, 8; II Pet. 3:16-18; II John 10-11; Jude 3

What is Christian liberty?

Five principles for understanding Christian liberty:

1. Christians will differ on what God wants them to do in areas of Christian liberty.
2. Liberty includes responsibility: our own conclusions must be made before God based on Bible principles. (Romans 14:5-6, 22)
3. Just because something falls into the area of Christian liberty doesn't mean you should always do it. (I Cor. 10:23)
4. Christian liberty must never be an excuse for fleshly living. (Gal. 5:13; I Pet. 2:16)
5. Don't let Christian liberty keep you from exhorting and edifying your brother in areas that are Scripturally clear.

Six principles for applying Christian liberty in the church:

1. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to make rules for others. (Col. 2:20-23)
2. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to decide whether my brother's decision was right or not. (Romans 14:10)
3. In areas of liberty, it isn't my place to change the conscience of my brother. (I Corinthians 8)
4. In areas of liberty, we should limit ourselves if we may cause others to stumble. (Romans 14:19-21; 15:1-3; Gal. 5:13; I Cor. 10:24; I Cor. 8:13)
5. We should encourage one another to utilize the responsibility of true liberty.
6. We must accept one another! (Romans 15:7)

Three reasons why our differences are healthy:

1. Differences indicate that people are properly exercising their Christian liberty.
2. God composes the body with different parts.
3. God gets the glory for the unity.

Romans 15:5-6