

Messy Faith – Developing a Culture of Love

The Freedom of Faith: Navigating Disputable Matters

March 5th, 2023

John 17:17-21 (NASB95)

Summary statement of Romans Chapters 12-14:

Romans 12: The Nature of love is to serve.

Romans 13: The requirement of love is to submit.

Romans 14: Love is firm in the essentials of faith and gracious in the non-essentials.

1) Genuine _____ is the only option. (V.1-3)

1a. Genuine Acceptance begins with _____. (V.6)

1b. Genuine Acceptance because we all belong to God and will each be _____ to Him. (V12)

2) Choose to be _____ instead of having to be _____. (v14-15)

2a. _____ to live for the Kingdom of God. (v.16-18)

2b. Pursue _____ above being _____. (v.19-23)

Four instructions:

- 1) Determine to never be a stumbling block.
- 2) Live as Citizens of heaven and focus on the eternal over the external.
- 3) Actively pursue that which builds others up.
- 4) Do all with a clear conscience, follow your convictions.

Life Group Questions:

- 1) What is the difference between convictions, boundaries, and legalism? How would you define these terms?
- 2) How do Christians balance their freedom in Christ with their responsibility to love and serve others? (Romans 14:7-12, 14:19-21)
- 3) What is the difference between disputable matters and essential doctrines? (Romans 14:1-4, 14:22-23)
- 4) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding individual convictions? How do we follow our convictions without judging other people's freedoms? How can we work through conflict? (Romans 14:5-8)
- 5) How can we build up others? How can we maintain an attitude of others first in personal convictions?