

# BE COOL: WITH GOD, WITH OTHERS, AND WITH YOURSELF

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## I. INTRODUCTION TO BEING COOL

**Romans 14:17-18 [NIV]** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

**Romans 14:17-18 [NLT]** For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

## II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COOL PERSON?

*A. Being cool with God is not about being perfect or following all the rules.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

*B. Being cool with God begins with Jesus's work for me, it gets better based on the attitude in me, and results in changed lives through me.*

- Am I cool with God?
- Is God cool with me?

*C. To be a cool person, we need to be cool with God and cool with other people.*

**1 Corinthians 8:9** Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

**Romans 14:13** Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

**Romans 14:17-18 [NLT]** For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

- We risk unraveling the work of God’s Kingdom when we pick at the edges of our unity over non-essential matters of personal conscience.
- Am I cool with others?
- Are others cool with me?

### III. THREE WAYS TO BE COOL WITH OTHERS

#### 1. *Listen before you talk*

**James 1:19-20** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

**Proverbs 18:13** To answer before listening— that is folly and shame.

- Being quiet allows you to honor another person by truly hearing them.
- Being quiet allows you to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit so He can guide you in the right thing to do.

#### 2. *Take a pass on your privileges*

**Philippians 2:5-11** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- What you take a pass on today may result in life change for someone tomorrow.

#### 3. *Pave the way with forgiveness*

**Colossians 3:12-13 [NLT]** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

- Our unity as a church rests on mutual honor, respect, and forgiveness.