

Maturity & Fellowship



Having finished a great series on fellowship, it is valuable for us to consider the concept of maturity and fellowship. Much of the conflicts that take place within a congregation are not doctrinal, but rather relational. Getting along with one another is a key aspect of maturity.

Luke 15:2 “Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’”

Luke 7:39 “Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.’”

John 4:27 “And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why do You speak with her?’”

Galatians 5:15 “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”

3 John 10 “For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so, and puts them out of the church.”

How does maturity make a difference?

Why is it hard to get along with others?

A. Romans 14-15 addresses the means to building bridges with those I do not agree with

The issue (2)

What options did these brethren have?

Four times the apostle tells the brethren not to judge (3, 4, 10, 13). Why is this such a problem?

What does Romans 14:7 mean?

- The issue at hand was not a matter of right or wrong (14)

The Treatment of Each Other:
 Not regard with contempt (3)
 Not judge (3)
 Accept each other (14:1; 15:7)
 Do not tear down or cause one to stumble (14:20-21)
 Be fully convinced yourself (5, 22)
 Pursue peace (14:19)
 Do not violate your conscience (14:23)

Paul did not tell either one that they had to change what they believed

B. The Outcome of this:

1. There will be those that do things that I disagree with.
- My spirit and attitude towards them is largely based upon my understanding of fellowship and my maturity

What would you tell someone who says that they don't like someone in our congregation?

Why are cliques harmful to a fellowship? What can be done to eliminate cliques?

In Galatians 3:28 Paul says “there is neither Jew nor Greek...for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Let there were huge cultural differences. How did they handle that?

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Mt 5:9). What are the characteristics of peacemaking?