

Home Group Questions

the week of 2/18/2018

Romans 14:1-12

DON'T MAJOR ON THE MINORS

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Romans. This week's sermon dealt with Romans 14:1-12 and the issue of not judging in a despising way other believers if they hold different views in non-essential doctrines.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

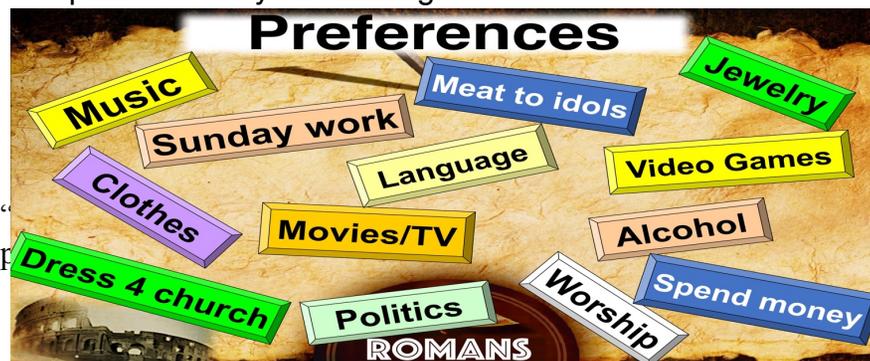
1. Read Romans 14:1-12. What do you think Paul means when he says we are not to "quarrel over opinions" v. 1. Why do you think he uses the word "opinions" and how would that be different from "core or essential doctrines"? The issue in this passage is whether or not Christians should eat meat that has been offered to idols (see this parallel concern and **read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.** Discuss this issue and how you would feel about this issue (false religions selling meat in the marketplace in Rome or Corinth that was sacrificed to a false idol). Would you buy this meat and eat it? Why or why not? What would be your considerations as you made your decision about whether to buy and eat that meat?

- Paul is very concerned here about the way we treat one another when we face non-essential issues like this. What are some other issues like this that people may believe differently about at Riverview but have the freedom to believe differently because they are non-essential beliefs.

- Pastor Mel spoke about the fact that these non-essential doctrines do become issues in the church when a person decides that "everyone in the church should believe the way I do in these non-essentials and if they don't...they are holding

on to heresy". What would be some guidelines you would give someone in how they discuss these beliefs with others in the church who might believe differently.

What are some areas in our lives in which people believe differently about non-essential issues. Look at the chart below as a primer to stir your thinking:



2. What is something that you used to think was right as a Christian but now you're not so sure...(or you think might be wrong)? Discuss how that change came about. For example, there may have been music you listened to a young believer that you now feel is no longer right to listen to for various reasons. What brought about that change and how do you respond if you hear a believer listening to music that you believe is wrong to listen to?

-Is there ever a time when you can confront someone about an activity or belief that falls in the "non-essential" camp but may be something that you should lovingly challenge a believer? For example, if you hear a believer listening to a secular song that is laced with profanity....can you discuss that with another believer??.... and what should be your guidelines as you discuss that matter?

MOVING FORWARD... Pray that you would never allow a non-essential issue to divide the body of Christ but lovingly still feel the freedom to sharpen one another to constantly find our guidance from the Word of God to guide us in these issues.