

Sermon Notes

When Being Right is Wrong
David A. Renwick
PENTECOST -- May 23, 2021
Romans 14:11-15:3

Discussing Passionate Issues “Christianly” . . .

I. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

a. Romans 14:17

-- Remember The Holy Spirit’s Passion for Healthy Relationships

The kingdom of God/Heaven

is not food and drink (*not about forcing our opinions on others*)

but righteousness and peace and joy by the Spirit

- **Righteousness** (= right-relatedness)
- **Peace** (= like peace after war; or after a marital fight; not just inner peace, but true reconciliation & healed relationship b/ God & People; and b/ People & People)
- **Joy** (*the joy of healthy relationship*)

ALL OF WHICH

adds up to LOVE produced and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Note: In the New Testament, the “Holy Spirit” is equivalent to the “Spirit of God” and the “Spirit of Jesus” – and simply indicates the intimate presence of God – God’s Presence – active in our lives and world

b. Romans 14:15

-- Think about The Way we “name” Others

Do not let what you eat (*your personal cause*)

cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died.

- *Ever noticed the tendency to re-name “the enemy”? – to give a demeaning title to any person we dislike or disagree with?*

II. THE PRACTICAL LIST

a. What to **START**

1. **Romans 14:19**

Pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

We need to ask:

- *Will what I say actually lead to positive transformation? – to growth? –to the right outcome?*
- *Or will my argument simply be sounding like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal?(1 Cor.13:1)*

2. **Romans 15:1**

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak,

→ *the ball is always in our court **not to lose patience***

-- *especially if we think **we are right***

→ *Why is it that we expect/ depend upon/ assume - God’s patience with us and our failings – but do not feel a need to give the same patience to others?*

b. What to **STOP**

3. **Romans 15:1-2**

Do not please yourselves, instead each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.

We need to ask:

- *Do I genuinely want the best for my neighbor, or just for me?*
- *Will my message be heard? OR just my anger or frustration?*

[This is especially important in e-mails . or Zoom –
▪ *where any positive body language gets lost in the shuffle; and strong words can so easily be felt as cutting down rather than building up*

4. **Romans 14:13, 16**

- **No longer pass judgment on one another,**
- **Never put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another**
- **Do not let your good be spoken of as evil.**
Sometimes you can win an argument but lose friends and credibility for ever – so your cause is still ignored or despised -- so what is gained?

