

Where Do We Go From Here

#3: How To Keep Our Differences From Tearing Us Apart

1. Raise the value of _____

John 17:21-23 *I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one... I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one...May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.*

John 13:35 *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

Key: I commit to loving you _____

2. Distinguish between _____ and _____

Key: God allows for differences of belief _____

a) Essentials: _____

b) Non-essentials: _____

Romans 14:1-3 *Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.*

c) _____ non-essentials

Romans 14:22 *So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.*

d) _____ on people who disagree with you

3. Care more about the things _____

a) The condition _____

b) People _____

c) People _____

Hebrews 10:24 *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.*

Peter 2:17 *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

Colossians 2:8-10 *Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything.*

Philippians 2:14 *Do everything without complaining and arguing,*

1 Timothy 4:7 *Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.*

1 Timothy 6:4 *Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions.*

2 Timothy 2:14 *Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.*

2 Timothy 2:23 *Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.*

2 Corinthians 12:20 *For I am afraid that when I come...I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.*

1 Timothy 3:3 *He must be gentle, not quarrelsome,*

2 Timothy 2:24 *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.*