

How Should Christians Disagree?

It's a Mad, Mad World, part 1

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Biblical perspective on getting along

1. Getting along is important

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:35

(NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)

2. Some things are worth dividing over

Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again: If anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person.

Galatians 1:8-9 (NLT)

3. Most things are not

So why do you condemn another Christian? Why do you look down on another Christian? Remember, each

of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God... Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God. So don't condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian's path.

Romans 14:10-13 (NLT)

How should Christians disagree?

1. If not biblically black and white, don't pass judgment

Accept Christians 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 is all right to eat anything. But another believer who has a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

Romans 14:1-2 (NLT)

2. Remember the other person could be right

Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)

3. Remember it is better to be loving than right

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be?

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NLT)

4. Follow your convictions but don't impose them on others

Those who think it is all right to eat anything must not look down on those who won't. And those who won't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.

Romans 14:3 (NLT)