

The Gospel of Paul (26)

The Stumbling Block Principle

Romans 14:13-23

Intro: Ghandi's Objection

I. The Principle (v. 13)

II. The Example (v. 14-18)

III. The Exhortation (v. 19-23)

Conclusion: Love Like Jesus, Live Like Missionaries

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever encountered someone who is open to Jesus, but closed to the Church (due to previous experiences or "church hurt")? How would you approach someone like this, knowing that our mission is to make DISCIPLES
2. Consider 2 Cor 6:3 and 1 Peter 2:7-8. The Gospel message about Christ may offend some people, causing them to stumble. And we know that we are called to build an audience for the Gospel, so we might share the Good News with those around us. What do you think it looks like to "let the Gospel be the offense", while resolving to never be the offense ourselves, or become a stumbling block to somebody's faith?
3. Read 1 Cor 8:4-13. How does LOVE toward others actually determine whether our actions are a simple expression of our "freedom/knowledge" or "sin"? How does Paul's heart in verse 13 affect your thinking on "disputable matters"?
4. Does the new Missionary Church (our denomination) vision of "Love Like Jesus, Live Like Missionaries" resonate with you? What, if anything, do you feel God leading you to consider in your own life?