

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

“Different” – a standalone message

(Rom 14:1-17; 1 Cor 8:1-13; 1 Sam 16:7; John 14:6; et al)

1. Q: What’s the dumbest thing you’ve done as a spouse, as a son/daughter, or as a parent? How did you feel? Why do you think you made your mistake? How do you avoid making the same kinds of mistakes now?

2. see Rom 14:1-3 - Q: Is it possible for equally sincere believers to have different opinions about what is wrong or right? How do you distinguish “disputable matters” from those that are non-negotiable? What does it mean to “accept” someone who has a different opinion?

3. see Rom 14:5-6 ... Q: Is it possible for two believers to be “right” about the same reverence, even though they disagree? What does this tell you about the way God sees us?

4. see Matt 5:41 ... [NOTE – this reference is to the Roman habit of conscripting local people for forced labor] Q: How does Jesus say we should respond to unfair demands placed on us by oppressive authorities? What do you think about His teaching on this subject? When does it apply, and when doesn’t it? Do you sometimes submit to unfair demands? Why?

5. see 1 Cor 8:4-7 ... Q: Even though you’re right about a given disputable matter, does God want you to step back and limit yourself anyway? Why?

6. see Rom 14:17-18 ... Q: What reason does God give for restricting ourselves sometimes, even though we know better?

7. see 1 Cor 8:1-3 ... Q: What does Paul mean when he says someone who think they know something doesn’t yet know as they should? What does he mean when he says knowledge puffs up but love builds up?

8. see Rom 14:19 ... Q: Does God call us to tolerate those who disagree with us, or go farther?

9. GOING DEEPER ... see 1 Sam 16:7 – Q: What does the Bible mean when it says that God “looks on the heart”? What is He looking for? Is it possible to do the right thing with the wrong attitude? How do you avoid that?

10. COOL DOWN ... see Rom 14:4 – Q: Is there someone you need to “let off the hook” of your judgment? Do so in silent prayer.

