

SOAP Devotional September 2019

Handling Differences of Opinion Maturely

Week 1: The Reality of Disagreement

Day 1: Differences arose between Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles regarding foods, observance of days, rites and other issues (**Romans 14:1-4**)

Day 2: Early church fathers had difference of opinions (**Acts 15:1-6**)

Day 3: Early church fathers had difference of opinions (**Acts 10:1-18**)

Day 4: Early church fathers had difference of opinions (**Galatians 2:1-5, 11-14**)

Day 5: Early church fathers had difference of opinions (**Acts 15:36-41**)

Day 6: Jesus and Peter (**Matthew 16:15-23**)

Day 7: Divisions in the church (**1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-7**)

Week 2: How to Make up Your Own Mind

Day 1: None of us should live to gratify our own desires (**Romans 14:5-9**)

Day 2: Examining the law of liberty (law producing freedom from the servitude of sinful passions and lusts) (**James 1:19-27**)

Day 3: Exercise your liberty in Christ with love (**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**)

Day 4: Daily study the blueprint for living (**Psalms 19:7-14; 19:41-48, 129-136**)

Day 5: Yield yourselves wholeheartedly to the law of liberty rather than flirting with the world's system. Those who yield will enjoy the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 6:1-16**)

Day 6: Seek to transform your minds embracing the law of liberty (**Romans 12:1-2; 8:1-14; 2 Timothy 2:15**)

Day 7: Remember everything is lawful but not everything is beneficial (**1 Corinthians 10:23-33**)

Week 3: When Brothers Disagree

Day 1: Focus on living a life of peace, goodness and joy in the Holy Spirit (**Romans 14:10-23**)

Day 2: Don't be puffed up in your knowledge rather build others up in love (**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**)

Day 3: Remember we are all at various stages of maturity of our Christian character (**2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:5-9**)

Day 4: It's not about who's right or wrong it's about God's glory and honour (**Philippians 1:12-21**)

Day 5: Your personal opinion or anecdotal examples matter little. The Word is the benchmark for settling disputes (**Colossians 2:6-23; Acts 15:6-29**)

Day 6: Pursue reconciliation with your brother (**Acts 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11**)

Day 7: Mechanisms for settling disputes (**Ephesians 4:26; Matthew 8:15-17; Luke 17:3-4; 1 Corinthians 6:1-7; Colossians 3:12-13**)

Week 4: Maintaining Unity in the Midst of Disagreement

Day 1: Exhortation for unity and acceptance in the body of Christ (**Romans 15:1-13**)

Day 2: Adopt the heart of a servant (**Mark 10:40-45; John 13:1-17; Matthew 18:1-5**)

Day 3: Smother your words and actions in love (**1 Corinthians 13:1-8**)

Day 4: Keep your eye on the prize (**1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Philippians 3:10-14**)

Day 5: Live in submission to those in authority over you (**1 Peter 2:13-19; Ephesians 6:1-9**)

Day 6: Judging our brother, God's servant, implies we are certain of the motivation behind their actions (**Romans 2:1-2, 14:1-8; Matthew 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 4:3-5; James 4:11-12**)

Day 7: Remember every believer will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ one day (**1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Romans 14:10-13**)