

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, May 15th 2016

The Gospel in Life | Living in the Church, Part 2 (Rm 14:1-15:3)

1. What good comes from division in the Church (recent stats point to approximately 40,000 different Christian denominations globally)? Why is it so easy to question others' methods?
2. What stands out as the biggest takeaway for you personally in this passage?
3. The ESV uses "despise" and "pass judgement" in order to explain what we not to do to one another over "disputable matters" (see Rm 14:3). Paul explains this is because we are all servants of Jesus and ultimately our lives will be judged by our master.¹ How does living within this framework change how you view others?
4. What are some "disputable matters" that you need to let go of in your embrace of unity among Jesus' Church?
5. How often do you think about whether your actions are a stumbling block to others? Would you commit to praying for God to reveal those things to you?
6. What does it mean to build someone else up? How is this different than blowing smoke? (ie. Pr 27:6) Who can you build up this week regardless of how you might expect them to react?
7. God is the "God of endurance and encouragement." Where are you lacking endurance or in need of encouragement in your life currently?
8. How would you attempt to teach Paul's exhortations to children who might be looking at every matter in life as indisputable?

¹ One of the most prolific names of God found in the OT, Adonai (used 319x), literally translates to "my masters"