

CONNECT Group study questions for Nov. 11, 2018

Title: "Handling Gray Areas, Part 2"

Read Romans 14:13-23

1. Last week Pastor Peppy introduced us to Paul's teaching on "gray areas." These areas require special attention because they can cause divisions within the body of Christ. Paul says that we should be careful not to become a stumbling block in the lives of others.

- In these verses how does Paul define gray areas?
- In what ways can gray areas become stumbling blocks in the church?

Read Romans 14:15-18 Again

2. After Paul tells us that gray areas can be stumbling blocks, he then provides us with a specific example from the life of the early church.

- As we keep in mind Paul's example, review some of the gray area examples that your group identified last week.

3. Paul repeatedly suggests that, because we will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of ourselves and our lives, we should always judge ourselves (our own thoughts and actions) and not judge others.

- Practically speaking, how do we continually "judge" ourselves, so that we might better follow Christ, especially when dealing with "gray areas"? In other words, how do we live out Paul's principles in Romans 14?
- What obstacles do we encounter when we try to live out these principles? How do we overcome these obstacles?

4. Paul argues that we should enjoy our freedom in Christ concerning any of the non-essential gray areas *until* they destroy peace in the church. Then we should give them up.

- Why does Paul continually call us to be the ones who sacrifice for the good of others?
- What does peace in the church look like?
- Why is God so concerned with peace and unity in the church?

Homework!

Romans 14:23 contains a tough description of sin. This week spend time in prayer asking God to help you examine where this principle applies to your life. Remember Peppy's two points from Romans 14:23 as you pray:

1. Our personal convictions gray areas (everything, really) need to come from God, and they are between us and God.
2. When you don't keep a personal conviction, you have sinned.