

About Doubtful Things

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 14.

B. This is a practical section concerning religious scruples.

II. Welcome or receive.

A. Welcome the man weak in faith whatever else.

B. Matters concerning doubtful things are all over in the Scriptures. They dealt with days, drinking and eating meat and our list has increased significantly.

1. The one thing we must not do is argue with someone to make up one's mind for the person.

2. Opinion is all you can have in these areas—where Scripture is silent, conscience rules.

3. Scripture is deliberately silent about certain things.

C. We must not be presumptuous and judge others in this area—instead we must welcome people because God has welcomed him.

III. Do not judge one another.

A. It is right to judge another in the area that Scripture speaks.

B. In doubtful areas we are not to judge.

C. Reasons not to judge.

1. The believer is answerable to the Lord and not the church in these areas.

2. It is no help for the church to judge in these areas.

3. There is no merit in abstaining from things or not abstaining from them. Whatever you do, do it unto the Lord.

D. There is no proper ability to judge. Jesus' Lordship starts now for the believer and He has the right alone to be Lord in these areas.

E. We cannot judge because we do not know the motive. We can only judge ourselves.

F. Do not cause people to stumble.

1. We do this because of love.

2. Love limits, and it limits here.
3. The greatest right we have is the right to give up our rights as Christians.
4. The important things in the Christian life are righteousness, joy, and peace in the Spirit.

IV. Faith is required.

- A. Faith is total dependence upon God.
- B. Any attitude that does not proceed from faith is sin.
- C. It is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11)
- D. It is not the nature of an activity that makes it wrong—it is the origin.

Application questions:

1. Why are we not to judge a believer in doubtful things?

2. What is the importance of the conscience in these matters, and how does it relate to faith?

3. What are some doubtful things believers deal with today? What are some things that people want to make doubtful that Scripture is rather clear about?
