



Todd Arnett | August 23, 2020
To Decide On

Four categories that we're using in this series to help us prioritize what God provides us in various degrees of Biblical clarity:

- To Die For
- To Divide Over
- To Dialogue About
- To _____ On

Because there are such a host of issues that others may or may not have liberty in, live with love as your primary attitude as you decide on things that don't have Biblical clarity

1. There are many " _____ " in our lives that the Bible doesn't speak clearly about

Romans 14:1-9

In the void of Biblical clarity, we must, according to Romans 14, neither be _____ with those who do not have the confidence of conscience to engage nor be _____ towards those who have the liberty to participate

"These are the adiaphora of Romans 14-15, the areas of belief and behavior about which there is no law. This is where acceptance is a virtue and legalism a real danger."

Gerry Breshears

"The matters where Christians may safely agree to disagree have traditionally been labeled adiaphora, 'indifferent things' . . . They are indifferent matters in the sense that believing certain things or not believing certain things, adopting certain practices or not adopting them, does not keep a person from inheriting the kingdom of God."

D.A. Carson, On Disputable Matters

Those converted to Christianity in the first century did not come with minds like empty slates. They had had years of living in Judaism or in some pagan situation and in the process had acquired deeply rooted habits and attitudes. They did some things but avoided others. When they became Christians, all this did not drop away from them in a moment . . . It is people who brought from their previous life such habits of thinking and living of whom Paul is speaking.

Colin G. Kruse, The Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Epistle to the Romans

2. My _____ for you will limit how I exercise my liberties in "gray areas"

Romans 14:10-18

The strong often have a tendency to look down on the weak and regard them as inferior Christians, while the weak, knowing that it would be wrong for them (thinking as they do) to do something that the strong do, all too easily hold that the strong are sinning and slip into condemning them. Not infrequently the weak is the greater tyrant.

Colin G. Kruse, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Epistle to the Romans*

2 Corinthians 5:10

"If we violate our consciences when we think that what we are doing is wrong (even though, according to Paul, the action itself is not wrong), then we will find it easier to violate our conscience when the envisaged action is wrong, with the result that our conscience will be less able to steer us clear of sin."

D.A. Carson, *On Disputable Matters*

"If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love."

When you try to talk another Christian into violating their conscience in an area of your Christian liberty, you have stopped loving them and are focused more on your _____ than on their _____.

Trinity Core Value

The Bible is God's Story given to transform you and to be the authority in your life

3. When considering "gray areas" with one another, keep your eye on what truly _____

Romans 14:19-15:6

- do not destroy the eternal work of God for something _____
- keep these "To Decide On" matters between _____ and _____
- living like Jesus in "majoring on the majors" allows us to glorify God _____ "with one mind and one voice"

Now What? Because there are such a host of issues that others may or may not have liberty in, live with love as your primary attitude as you decide on things that don't have Biblical clarity