

How To Deal With A Controversial Passage

1 Timothy 1:18-2:15

THE PROBLEM:

Not every passage in the Bible is *crystal clear*.

Too often, we *argue over* the unclear and *ignore* the crystal clear.

We don't know how to *agree to disagree*.

THE PASSAGE:

FIRST THE EASY STUFF:

✓ How A Good Start Goes Awry.

1 Timothy 1:18-20/ Hebrews 11:6 & Hebrews 10:25-26/ 1 John 1:9 & Jeremiah 18:1-10

▶ We stop *trusting God* and stop *obeying God*.

✓ What To Pray For And Why It's Important.

1 Timothy 2:1-7/ Proverbs 21:1/ John 14:6 & Acts 4:12/ Ezekiel 33:11

▶ *Everyone* and *everything*.

▶ *Peace* and *quiet*.

▶ So that it's easier to become a *Christian*.

✓ What's A Man to Do?

1 Timothy 2:8/ Mark 11:25/ Romans 12:8

▶ God wants *holiness* and *harmony*.

NOW FOR THE HARD STUFF:

✓ What's A Woman to Do?

1 Timothy 2:9-15/ 1 Peter 3:3-4/ Proverbs 31:10 & 22/ Proverbs 11:22/ Galatians 3:28

▶ Is this about a *woman* or a *wife*?

▶ Is this for *then* or for *now*?

▶ How I see it.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE OTHER SIDE DOESN'T GET IT

❶ If it's black & white and crystal clear – *divide over it*.
Galatians 1:8-9/ 1 Timothy 4:7, 2 Timothy 3:5 & Titus 3:10/ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

❷ If it's not, *unity* is more important than *uniformity*.
1 Corinthians 13:2/ 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 & 11:17-19/ Romans 14:1-13/
John 13:35 & Ephesians 4:2-3/ 1 Timothy 1:5 & 1 Peter 3:8 & 4:8 & 1 John 4:20-21

How To Deal With A Controversial Passage

1 Timothy 1:18-2:15

THE PROBLEM:

Not every passage in the Bible is _____.
Too often, we _____ the unclear and _____ the crystal clear.
We don't know how to _____.

THE PASSAGE:

FIRST THE EASY STUFF:

✓ How A Good Start Goes Awry

1 Timothy 1:18-20/ Hebrews 11:6 & Hebrews 10:25-26/ 1 John 1:9 & Jeremiah 18:1-10

▶ *We stop _____ and stop _____.*

✓ What To Pray For And Why It's Important.

1 Timothy 2:1-7/ Proverbs 21:1/ John 14:6 & Acts 4:12/ Ezekiel 33:11

▶ _____ and _____.

▶ _____ and _____.

▶ *So that it's easier to become a _____.*

✓ What's A Man to Do?

1 Timothy 2:8/ Mark 11:25/ Romans 12:8

▶ *God wants _____ and _____.*

NOW FOR THE HARD STUFF:

✓ What's A Woman to Do?

1 Timothy 2:9-15/ 1 Peter 3:3-4/ Proverbs 31:10 & 22/ Proverbs 11:22/ Galatians 3:28

▶ *Is this about a _____ or a _____?*

▶ *Is this for _____ or for _____?*

▶ *How I see it.*

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE OTHER SIDE DOESN'T GET IT

❶ If it's black & white and crystal clear – _____.

Galatians 1:8-9/ 1 Timothy 4:7, 2 Timothy 3:5 & Titus 3:10/ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

❷ If it's not, _____ is more important than _____.

1 Corinthians 13:2/ 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 & 11:17-19/ Romans 14:1-13/
John 13:35 & Ephesians 4:2-3/ 1 Timothy 1:5 & 1 Peter 3:8 & 4:8 & 1 John 4:20-21

Food for Thought

For the week of July 23, 2006

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Working your way through a controversial passage that's dividing the ranks can at times be no small challenge. When reading the New Testament it doesn't take long to find some examples of these kinds of controversies and their adverse impact. Paul gives some ways to work through these kinds of issues in Romans 14:1-15:7. As you read through this passage of Scripture, respond to the statements below.

Identify each of the issues of controversy and their impact on the church:

What remedies did Paul give to bring back unity and work through the issues?

Have you ever seen or found yourself in a situation similar to what Paul is describing? If yes, what was helpful in the way it was handled or did you wish it would have happened differently based on this passage?

2. We all know that when controversy comes frustration can cause the situation to become more heated than need be. When the heat gets turned up, too often those involved can lose the ability to work toward resolution or agreeing to disagree. How do the following passages help us keep the situation moving toward resolution and not just arguing over the issue?

Proverbs 15:1

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 21-26

Ephesians 4:3

Ephesians 4:29

Hebrews 12:14-15

1 Peter 2:16-17

Which of the above responses comes easiest to you? Which one might be the most challenging?

3. As a result of this week's teaching and study, are there any issues you see less "black and white" that you may need to allow more room for those involved to "agree to disagree"? Is there anyone with whom you need to make some amends regarding a past attitude you've had toward them?