

Living & Loving through Disagreement
(Principles from 1st Century Christian Conflict)
First Christian Church—August 23, 2020
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From Gray to BLACK & WHITE...

GOD's Story— Dangerous Rights: 1 Corinthians 8:9; 9:12b, 15a, 19-23

Summary of the Corinthian Conflict: To eat or not to eat food offered to idols?

- Strong Bro/Sis—my conscience is clear; I can eat it. So can you.
- Weak Bro/Sis—my conscience bothers me; I can't eat it. Neither should you.

Paul's Solution to the Conflict: This is a Matter of Conscience/Opinion. Respect/accept each other.

Lessons we have yet to learn, but must:

- My Brother/Sister is more important than my rights. 1 Corinthians 8:9
- The use of my rights must not hinder the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:12b
- The salvation of others trumps the exercise of my rights. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Principle #4: Exercising our rights and freedoms without regard for others can be damaging.
Christians give up their rights and freedoms for the benefit of others whenever necessary.

In faith, unity.
In opinions, liberty.
In all things love.

But what if, what for someone is an opinion, for you is a matter of absolute truth or morality?

Big Idea: The salvation of the person with whom I disagree is more important than me winning the argument or making my point.

Big Challenge: Express love and patience to someone with whom you fundamentally disagree over an issue, which for you is NOT just a matter of opinion, but a matter of absolute morality.

Right On!

(NT Scripture Readings: John 17:20-23; 1 Peter 4:8)