

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Essentials for Biblical Unity

PASSAGE: Romans 14:1-15:7

DATE: May 31, 2020

Four essentials to build unity

1. Differences: What perspective should we have toward differences?
2. Doctrine: How should we categorize doctrine?
 - “Biblical wisdom is more than just knowing truth; it is getting truth in the right order of importance.”
 - Theological Triage
 - “The appropriate mentality corresponding to first-rank doctrines is courage and conviction. The appropriate mentality regarding third-rank doctrines is caution and restraint. Our mentality concerning second-rank doctrines should be wisdom and balance.” – Gavin Ortland, *Finding the Right Hills To Die On*
 - “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” – St. Augustine
3. Disposition: What attitude should I have towards those I have differences with?
 - “It is one thing to disagree with another Christian. That is inevitable to anyone who thinks. It is another thing when our disagreement takes an attitude of contempt, condescension, or undue suspicion toward those with whom we disagree.” – Gavin Ortland, *Finding the Right Hills To Die On*
 - a. Humility: Eph. 5:2; Romans 12:16
 - b. Gracious: Eph. 4:32
 - “Pride or haughtiness is the cause and commencement of all contentions.” – John Calvin
4. Deeds: What actions should I pursue to build unity?
 - Know your triggers and exercise wisdom around them
 - Pursue peace and mutual up-building: Romans 14:19
 - Build relationships with others who are different than you: Romans 14:1; 15:7
 - Walk in love and carry each other’s burdens: Romans 14:15
 - Don’t major on minor doctrines or minor on major doctrines.
 - a. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Benediction: “2 Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” – Philippians 2:2-4

See the ["Be Unified" Application Guide](#) for further questions and reflections regarding this sermon.