

Dwelling with a Brother of Differing Conviction

Three preliminary conclusions:

1. Differing convictions are broad, often culturally, and generationally driven.
2. Insensitivity to differing convictions leads to legalism or licentiousness.

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

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Three preliminary conclusions:

1. Differing convictions are broad, often culturally, and generationally driven.
2. Insensitivity to differing convictions leads to legalism or licentiousness.
3. Differing convictions are REAL and NECESSARY

1 Corinthians 8:7

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

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How we treat those of differing conviction matters

- A. Welcome them v.1
- B. Don't quarrel over opinions v.2
- C. The strong: must not "despise" v.3,10
- D. The weak: must not "judge" v. 3,10
- E. Be fully convinced in your own mind before God.
V. 5-9
- F. Both will give account to God. V. 10

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The bar is higher than “is it wrong?” Three considerations:

1. Is it helpful / profitable?
2. Does it cause someone else to stumble?
(1 Corinthians 6:12b)

1 Corinthians 8:9

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1 Corinthians 8:11-13

And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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The bar is higher than “is it wrong?” Three considerations:

1. Is it helpful / profitable?
2. Does it cause someone else to stumble?
(1 Corinthians 6:12b)
3. Does this thing I allow dominate my life?