

6

Accept

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HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT'S NOT WORTH ARGUING ABOUT?

The **POINT** >

Strong relationships are not hindered by differences of opinion.

> ROMANS 14:1-4,13-19

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

.....

¹³Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block

or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

¹⁵For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Our eyes actually see the world upside-down, and our brains flip the image so it's right-side-up.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

God calls children to honor their parents throughout their lives as a reflection of honor and love for Him. Further, we are to demonstrate love toward all members of our families, including siblings, extended family, and those who God brings into our families as a result of fostering, adoption, or remarriage.

What a wonderful world it would be if everyone started reading from the right script, which just so happens to be the one in my hand! But the reality is we don't live in a perfect world. We don't always see eye to eye with others, even the people we love most. The question for each of us is: What do we do when we disagree—when the other person seems to miss our “right” way of seeing things?

A lot of us spend an enormous amount of time persuading others to subscribe to our point of view. But what happens when this approach doesn't work? What happens when we talk until we're blue in the face, but the other person still stands his ground? Does this mean the relationship is over?

In the Book of Romans, Paul teaches us to remain humble when we have differences of opinion. Clearly, some hills are worth dying on and at times we need to stand our ground, but Paul helps us see where to draw those lines. Paul's instructions guide us to maintain strong relationships no matter how different our opinions may be.

ROMANS 14:1-4

1 How should we treat others when we disagree as Christ followers?

2 What unintended damage can occur when we criticize, judge, and argue?

ROMANS 14:13-15

3 How can we identify if an action or attitude is a stumbling block?



4 What may act as a stumbling block in your life?

5 How do you balance enjoying your freedom and avoiding stumbling blocks?

ROMANS 14:16-19

6 How does serving Christ in this way change how we approach disagreements?

7 What freedoms do you enjoy that may be offensive to others?

8 What are some specific ways we can pursue peace with those with whom we have differences of opinion?

A selfish, me-centered way of thinking doesn't build healthy relationships. Instead, we need to consider others and make adjustments to our own lives. #BSFLRelationships





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

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Throughout our lives, we will have differences of opinion with many people. Considering we spend so much time with our family and feel safest to express ourselves fully at home, we're going to have perhaps the most disagreements with family members. However, we're called to love our family in a special way, and even during disagreements, we should work hard to make sure the members of our family know we love and value them.

> CHRIST

We are called to live in a close relationship with Jesus. Many times, when people experience difficulty in their relationships, they choose to walk away. And many have walked away from God when they've found that obeying Him is difficult.

9 When have you disagreed with God about something He's said through the Bible? How did you respond?

10 How will you work to make sure your convictions are biblical, so you:

Understand what God desires of you?

Are willing to live in obedience?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

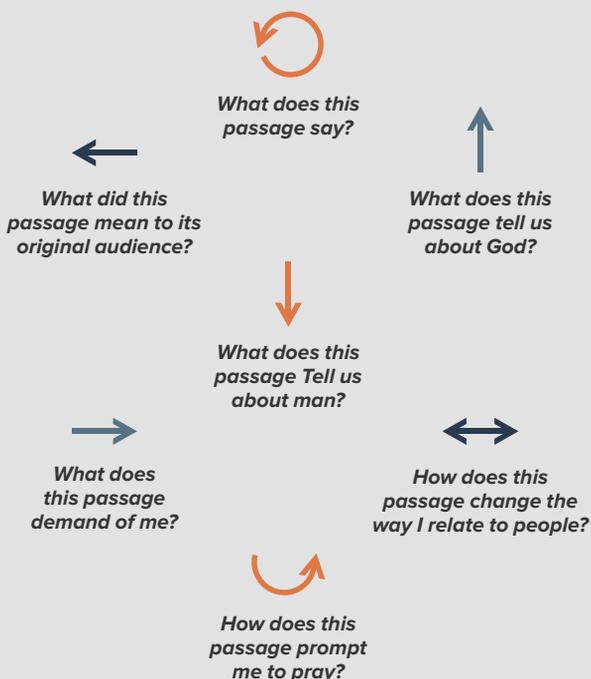
FAMILY

COMMUNITY & WORLD

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One

COLOSSIANS 3:11

Because of our fallen nature, people are naturally inclined to divide ourselves according to similarities. Today, we experience divisions based on skin color, the shape of our bodies, interests such as sports or music, perceived beauty or lack thereof, the amount of money our parents have, and many other things. This is nothing new, and in the Bible we read that people divided themselves based on similar ideas. However, when Paul wrote this letter to the church, he wanted them to understand very clearly that a relationship with Jesus tears down all walls that would divide us. We are called to unity, and to show favoritism or prejudice based on surface-level characteristics is a blatant offense against God. If Jesus is everything to us—as He should be—then these other things shouldn't matter.

- **Where do you see divisions in your school, community, or even in your church?**
- **Why is it such an offense against God to show prejudice?**

Day Four

COLOSSIANS 3:14

Galatians 5:14 teaches us that “the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.” As Christians we are to put off our old, sinful ways of living, and we’re to replace them with new thoughts and behaviors that show we’ve truly been changed by God. But the most important change that occurs in the heart of a believer is that anger and hatred are removed and replaced with genuine love. Without love, no other good thing can exist, for they all flow out of love. When asked which commandment is most important, Jesus told the Jewish scribe that loving God is the most important calling in our lives, and loving people will flow out of our primary love for God. Without this kind of love, the church can never be what God intends we would be. However, with love, we’ll be unified with our brothers and sisters and God will use us to impact the world.

- **Why is love the most important calling in our lives?**

- **How is love the fulfillment of all the commands in Scripture?**

Day Five

COLOSSIANS 3:15



When we allow divisions to characterize our relationships, we experience no peace personally, and we do damage to the name of God. However, when we refuse to accept the divisions that are so common in the world, and instead we love and accept others despite differences of opinion, the grace of God is put on display. This doesn’t mean that we are to condone sinful behaviors that are blatantly offensive to God. Instead, we should challenge those perspectives while, at the same time, showing patience and kindness to the people who hold those perspectives. When we work hard to find this balance, we’ll experience peace with God, which matters more than anything this world has to offer.

- **How do you know when to accept others and when to challenge their perspectives?**

- **How have you experienced God’s peace in your life?**