

Gray Areas: Deciding What To Do (Part 2)

(Romans 14:1, 13-19)

Introduction.

A) The Bible is very clear on issues that are foundational truths of the Christian faith. It teaches in detail much about God; God is one (Mark 12:29; 30), God is Holy unlike any man (1 Samuel 2:2), God is just (Romans 9:14-33), God is compassionate and gracious (Exodus 34:6), and so forth.

We also learn that Jesus is God (Mark 2:8), was born of a virgin woman (Matthew 1:23), is the only way to salvation (John 14:6), and more. We can be sure and confident in these truths, because they are explicitly communicated in the Bible. We refer to these teachings as “black and white” areas of the Bible. The list could go on.

B) But what about the other areas like smoking cigarettes, social Drinking, dancing, eating certain foods, entertainment choices, etc. These might be referred to as **gray areas**. In other words there is less clarity. That is not to say those behaviors or choices are approved, just not specifically addressed.

C) Among the Christian denominations are sharp disagreements on some of these gray areas.

For example: While one believer is persuaded that a woman should not wear makeup, jeans, or cut her hair, another believer is persuaded to allow it. Likewise, you might know someone who refuses to watch movies at the theater while another openly loves to do so.

D) **Gray areas** are practices, behaviors or moral issues that the Bible does not directly command, commend or forbid.

E) Through out the ages, well-intentioned men have tried to formulate rules and regulations to deal with these behaviors. Sometimes they have been on target and sometimes they have not. Sometimes the rules are the result of preference or prejudice. Sometimes they were about control. Sometimes they were about self-righteousness.

F) As Christians, the 613 specific commands of the Mosaic Law no

longer govern our conduct (Romans 7:6, 10:14). Therefore, we must be careful not to pull some rule from the Mosaic Law to govern the gray areas that are not addressed with clarity.

Rather, choices, conducts, and lifestyles in these gray areas are to be governed by **principles** established in the Bible. That is, timeless truths that can be applied the many areas of life.

F) Contextualize Romans 14:1, 13-19.

F) Contextualize this sermon in the Gray Areas series.

I. The Challenge (14:1)

A) License (13:11-14)

B) Legalism (14:1)

C) Liberty (14:1)

II. The Area Disagreements

A) Food

B) Special Days

Modern gray areas: Tattoos (Lev. 19: xx), Recreational cigars,

III. Gray Area Guidelines

A) Stumbling Block Principle (14:13-14)

B) Love Principle (14:15-18)

C) Peace Principle (14:19)

D) Edification Principle (14:19)

Conclusion