

The Balance Between Opinion and Unity:

“Rightly Dividing Without Division”

by

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2 Tim 2:15:

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

NIV

Summary from last week:

1. We need to talk to each other, rather than about each other.
2. We should make sure the elders sign off on anything new or different and trust their spiritual leadership.
3. When possible, we need to provide Christians the option of participating or not in activities where opinions differ.
4. We need to understand UNITY is not where we all agree on everything...It is where we all choose to be as loving and accepting of each other as we possibly can.
5. We should all look out for each other, for sometimes the wisest thing to do is give-up something we are free to do, for the sake of the body of Christ.
6. We should obey all commands without compromise.

How do we decide what is a command? *The study of Hermeneutics* (Key Questions):

1. *What type of passage are we studying?*
2. *What is the context of the passage?*
3. *What does the original language mean?*
4. *What does this mean for us?*

Observations:

1. We should be _____ that God Almighty has chosen to reveal himself and his will to us.

Hebrews 4:12

2. Each of us has a God given responsibility to _____ to rightly understand God's Word with integrity and an open heart.

Romans 14:12

3. There is no part of the Bible that is irrelevant to us; all scripture is God's Word and consists of _____ or _____ that we may apply to us.

1 Thessalonians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 11:5; James 5:14; Hebrews 10:24; Proverbs 22:6; John 13: 14; Matthew 5:29; Acts 2:38

4. The easiest parts of scripture to understand have to do with _____.

5. Generally, the more _____ a passage is, the less _____ it is that we completely understand it.

6. The more _____ a belief is the less _____ we should be and the more _____ of Christians we should be who think differently.