

# Matters of Faith and Opinion

# Definitions

- ***Matters of faith***

- We are talking about convictions/beliefs that are directed by God according to His Word.
- Those that we have either a direct commandment, an approved apostolic example or necessary inference.  
(Acts 15:1-21)

# Definitions

- ***Matters of opinions***
  - We are talking about convictions/beliefs for which we do **NOT** have a direct commandment, an approved apostolic example or necessary inference.  
(Acts 15:1-21)

# Examples

Items	Matters of faith	Matters c
<b>Baptism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mode:</b> immersion (Rom. 6:3-6)</li><li>• <b>Purpose:</b> to be saved (1 Pet. 3:21)</li><li>• <b>Candidates:</b> believers who repented of their sins (Acts 2:38)</li></ul>	

# Examples

Items	Matters of faith	Matters of opinion
<b>Baptism</b>	Mode: immersion Purpose: for forgiveness of sins Candidates: believers who repented of their sins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Running water</b></li><li>• <b>Baptistery</b></li><li>• <b>Warm water</b></li><li>• <b>Preacher or baptizing</b></li></ul>

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<b>Lord's Supper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Day:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> day of week: (Sunday) (Acts 20:7)</li><li>• <b>Emblems:</b> unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Mt. 26:26-29)</li></ul>	

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Lord's Supper	<p>Day: 1<sup>st</sup> day of week: (Sunday) (Acts 20:7)</p> <p>Emblems: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Mt 26:26-29)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Time</b></li><li>• <b>Serve only one time</b></li><li>• <b>Before sermon or after sermon</b></li></ul>

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<b>Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Place (Heb. 10:25)</b></li><li>• <b>In spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24)</b></li><li>• <b>Faithful Christians leading (1 Tim. 2:8)</b></li></ul>	

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<b>Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place (Heb. 10:25)</li><li>• In spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24)</li><li>• Faithful Christians leading (1 Tim. 2:8)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Place</b></li><li>• <b>Length</b></li><li>• <b>Songs</b></li><li>• <b>Prayers</b></li></ul>

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Items	Matters of faith	Matters of opinion
<b>Age of elders</b>	<b>Old enough to meet the qualifications (1 Tim. 3 &amp; Titus 1)</b>	

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Items	Matters of faith	Matters of opinion
<b>Age of elders</b>	Old enough to meet the qualifications (1 Tim. 3 & Titus 1)	<b>60 years old</b>

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Items	Matters of faith	Matters of opinion
<b>Modesty</b>	<b>Modest apparel with propriety and moderation (1 Tim. 2:9)</b>	

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Items	Matters of faith	Matters of opinion
<b>Modesty</b>	Modest apparel with propriety and moderation (1 Tim. 2:9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Length of skirt</b></li><li>• <b>Length of hair</b></li><li>• <b>No pants</b></li></ul>

**Two passages are important**

**Rom. 14 & 1 Cor. 8**

# Rom 14

- ***Background***

- It has to do with Jewish and Gentile Christians condemning one another over ***Old Testament teaching concerning food and days.***

# Rom 14

- **Keep in mind that it**
  - Has to do with matters of opinion and personal conviction – NOT matters of faith and doctrine.

# What Romans 14 teaches:

Don't judge (condemn to hell)  
over matters of personal  
conviction or opinions

# Don't judge (condemn to hell)

- **Romans 14:4 (NKJV)**

- 4 **Who are you to judge another's servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. >

# Don't judge (condemn to hell) over opinions

- **Romans 14:10 (NKJV)**

- <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother?

**For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. >**

# Don't judge (condemn to hell)

- **Romans 14:13 (NKJV)**

- 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.**

# Don't destroy one another

- **Romans 14:15 (NKJV)**

- <sup>15</sup> Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. **Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.**

# Don't destroy the work of God

- Romans 14:20 (NKJV)
  - 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense.

# Don't violate your conscience

- **Romans 14:14 (NKJV)**

- 14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.

- **Romans 14:23 (NKJV)**

- 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; **for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

**What should be done to those who  
violate this teaching**

# Note (Mark) them

- Romans 16:17–18 (NKJV)
  - <sup>17</sup>Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.**
  - <sup>18</sup>For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, **but their own belly,** and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

# Reject them

- Titus 3:9-11 (NKJV)
  - But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.
  - **Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,** knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

**Do we have the right to our opinions?**

**Yes, as long as we don't force  
them on others.**

# 1 Cor. 8:4-13

- **Background**

- They questioned whether it was okay to eat meat offered to idols.
- Paul could because he knew that an idol was nothing, but not everyone had his conviction. So Paul stresses his concern for others who didn't have that understanding.

# 1 Cor. 8:4-13

- **His instruction**

- Don't allow your liberty to become a stumbling block to others (8:9)
- Don't sin against your brother (8:12)

# 1 Cor. 8:4-13

- **Paul's example**
  - He would eat not meat IF it would cause his brother to stumble (8:13)

# 1 Cor. 8:4-13

**Keep in mind he is talking about offenses that lead others into sin not just something we don't like!**

# Conclusion

During the restoration movement,  
they use to say:

“In matters of faith, unity; in matters  
of opinion, liberty; in all things, love.”