



Open/Closed Handed Issues
By Noel Heikkinen

Life Group Leader Notes
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Quick Thoughts

What we believe matters, and what we believe about God matters most. What we believe is intrinsically linked to how we live. "Closed Handed" issues are those that deal directly with salvation and are clear in scripture. "Open Handed" issues are non-salvific (not dealing with salvation) and are not clear in scripture. Some open handed issues are "weightier" than others, but when we disagree, we must be gentle and keep Jesus central.

Scripture

1 Timothy 4:7, 13-16
2 Timothy 2:36-26, 3:14-17
1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 16:22
Matthew 23:23-24
Mark 7:6-9
Romans 14:5-10

Questions

1. What are some issues that are disagreed upon within Evangelical Christianity?
2. Are some of the issues that Christians disagree about today (or historically) simply "foolish, ignorant controversies" as Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:23-26? How can we be discerning and gentle in the disagreements we may have with other believers?
3. In which "buckets" would you place some of the issues that you discussed in Question 1?
4. Have you ever been hurt by someone by the way they "disagreed" with you on an issue? Were they quarrelsome, unkind, or harsh? Have you ever done the same thing to someone else?
5. How can we be "not quarrelsome but kind to everyone...correcting [our] opponents with gentleness," as Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:24? What are the Gospel implications of acting this way?