

Speaker: Bill Kittrell  
Text: Romans 13-15  
Title: Disputable Matters

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**Sermon Quotes**  
Sunday, January 3, 2021

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“In the world of psychologized man...the commitment is first and foremost to the self and is inwardly directed...Outward institutions become in effect the servants of the individual and her sense of inner well-being...That which hinders my outward expression of my inner feelings...is by definition harmful and to be rejected...So-called ‘external’ or ‘objective’ truths are then simply constructs designed by the powerful to intimidate and to harm the weak. Overthrowing them – and thus overthrowing the notion that there is a great reality to which we are accountable...becomes the central purpose of educational institutions....The triumph of the therapeutic represents the advent of the expressive individual...(and) the relativizing of all meaning and truth to personal taste.”

**Carl Trueman**

The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self

“Paul clearly feels that the issues dividing the Christians in Rome belong in the category of the adiaphora - ‘things indifferent’ – matters that are not essential to the faith and on which committed and sincere Christians may disagree. His purpose is to foster unity in the church by urging tolerance of one another on such issues. While the issues have changed, the modern church has frequently been tragically divided in the same way over non-essential matters. Without compromising on those doctrines that are essential to the gospel, we need to heed Paul’s call to accept all those whom God accepts (Romans 15:1; 14:3b).”

**Douglas Moo**

New Bible Commentary

“I suspect that some of my dearest friends may disagree with some things I’ve said in this chapter. Some do not see the manner of dress in church or the type of music we sing as matters of preference. For them, it is a conviction. I respect their thinking and wouldn’t want to change their convictions at all. I’d like to be like Paul, who took a similar position regarding the divisive issues in Rome. He did not try to change anyone’s convictions regarding what they ate or the special days they observed. Instead, he said, ‘Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind’ (Rom 15:5). Such a statement makes many of us uncomfortable. We don’t like ambiguity in issues of Christian practice. It’s difficult for us to accept that one person’s opinion can be different from ours and both of us be accepted by God. But that is what Paul says in Romans 14. And if we will take Paul seriously and hold our convictions with humility, it will help us avoid the sin of judgmentalism.”

**Jerry Bridges**

Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate