SMALL GROUP LESSON

APRIL 8, 2018

ARGUING OVER NOTHING

ROMANS 14:1-12 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

We've all heard someone say, "Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill." But that's precisely what sometimes happens among God's people. Issues that are tangential to the core beliefs of Christianity become so hotly debated that discord and strife are sown among the fellowship of believers. Indeed, that's what Paul was addressing in chapter 14 of the book of Romans. Let's take a look at what he had to say.

1. Why did Paul write chapter 14 in the book of Romans? What was going on in the church at Rome that prompted him to write about issues such as whether or not to eat certain foods or whether to observe or not observe special holy days?

2. Have you ever encountered or heard of situations where God's people became really upset with one another because of the way others practiced their Christian faith? Did these kinds of disagreements help or hurt the work of God's Kingdom?

3. As you read through these verses, what recommendations did Paul make to the church in Rome as to how they should handle this kind of discord? Need a little help with the answer? In his sermon our pastor has summarized what Paul had to say into three key principles. Take a look into each of them and then put them into your own words. In that way you can apply them to your own life if and when you find yourself in a situation similar to what was happening in the church at Rome.

4. In the pastor's sermon he quotes an ancient Christian saying, "In major things have unity, in minor things have liberty, but in all things have love." How can we determine which are the major things and which are the minor things with regards to our Christian faith? That's a tough question and as our pastor states in his sermon, Paul does not help us much here. . ." It is, however, a question that is worthy of discussion and perhaps a future sermon. In the meantime, take a look at 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and give this question some serious thought.