

WEEK 7: WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO WITH THINGS LIKE HALLOWEEN, YOGA, AND ALCOHOL?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

How do you decide what to participate in the culture? Most Christians would agree you can go to a baseball game but should reject the invitation to go to a strip club. Those seem clear, but there is a lot that is unclear: going to a Halloween party in the neighborhood, decorating Easter Eggs, watching an R-rated movie, going to Yoga. We are not the only ones with challenging cultural questions. The apostle Paul wrote to Christians who were fighting over eating meat that had been previously offered to idols. He gave liberty in his writing and encouraged the believers to love and respect each other. We will see that there are some things we must avoid, some we can appreciate, and some things we can adapt to impact others.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What is one of your favorite holiday traditions, either from your childhood or that you do today as an adult?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Romans 14:1-8, 19-23

Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while one who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not judge one who does, because God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person judges one day to be more important than another day. Someone else judges every day to be the same. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 Whoever observes the day, observes it for the honor of the Lord. Whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; and whoever does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat it, and he gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

19 So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another. 20 Do not tear down God's work because of food. Everything is clean, but it is wrong to make someone fall by what he eats. 21 It is a good thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. 22 Whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God.

Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever doubts stands condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith, and everything that is not from faith is sin.

Read Romans 14:1-6, 19-23. From the passage, what do you observe to be the key guiding values on decisions we make?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE IF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

In his sermon, Eric had three barrels on stage representing three categories of responses we should consider as Christians engaging with culture—avoid, appreciate, and adapt. Talk about those responses and how they differ from one another.

In your experience, what are some parts of culture that Christians argue about the morality of the most? Holidays? Food? Something else? Why are these aspects of culture so contentious?

What are some ways for Christians to practically appreciate culture while maintaining their convictions?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE**

Share about a time you navigated varying viewpoints with fellow believers. What did you learn about yourself, others, and God from that experience?

Eric shared a popular Christian piece of wisdom that says, “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.” What does it look like to practically live according to that idea?