

PEACE MAKERS

in a noisy world



02 What Belongs Where?

Because not every issue carries the same biblical weight, faithful peacemaking requires learning to distinguish gospel clarity, wisdom and conscience, and Christ's promised reign.

EMBARK

1. Think about situations where Christians disagree about important issues. What usually makes those conversations feel tense or difficult?
2. What do you think most often causes conversations like these to become unproductive?

When every issue is treated as ultimate, unity becomes fragile and conversations become combative. Before we can live as peacemakers, we must learn how Scripture teaches us to recognize what truly carries the greatest weight.

EXAMINE

READ John 17:17

3. What does Jesus say is the source of truth for God's people?
4. How does this verse shape what must be central for the church?

READ Acts 20:27

5. What does Paul mean by "the whole counsel of God"?
6. What danger arises when Christians emphasize only selected truths?

READ Matthew 23:23

7. What does Jesus mean by "the weightier matters of the law"?
8. What does this verse teach us about priorities rather than ignoring lesser matters?

READ Romans 14:1-12

9. What kinds of issues create disagreement in this chapter?
10. How does Paul distinguish between matters of personal conscience and matters of accountability before God?

*Peacemaking requires
learning to ask not only*
IS THIS TRUE?
but also
**WHAT BELONGS
WHERE?**

EXPOSE

Scripture teaches both truth and proportion. God calls His people to hold fast to all that He has revealed, but He also teaches us that some matters carry greater theological and moral weight than others.

When Christians fail to recognize these distinctions, disagreements quickly escalate into division. Conscience issues become treated as gospel issues, and secondary concerns become elevated to tests of faithfulness.

Peacemaking requires learning to ask not only, “*Is this true?*” but also, “*What belongs where?*” Clarity about biblical categories protects unity, guards consciences, and keeps the gospel at the center of the church’s life.

ENGAGE

Group Activity – *What Belongs Where?* (8–10 minutes)

As a group, discuss the questions below.

Step 1 (3–4 min): Place the statements.

For each statement below, decide together which category it should go into.

Gospel Clarity	Wisdom and Conscience	Christ’s Promised Reign

- *Speaking publicly about moral issues*
- *Choosing how to use personal freedom*
- *Supporting social or community causes*

- *Waiting for Christ’s return*
- *Loving difficult neighbors*

Step 2 (2–3 min): Where is it hardest to tell?

- Which statement was hardest to place?
- Why?

Step 3 (2–3 min): Church or Christian?

Discuss: What happens inside a church’s life and ministry when issues that belong in different categories are treated as if they belong in the same one?

For further discussion...

11. Why do you think Christians are often tempted to elevate secondary issues to primary importance?
12. How does Romans 14 protect both truth and Christian unity?
13. How could learning to ask “What belongs where?” change the tone of your own conversations?

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 23:23b (ESV) “These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”