

Drawing the Line (Fellowship)
Romans 16:17
(Amos 3:3, 1 Cor 1:10)
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want us to consider when we must draw the line in relation to fellowship.

- Intro:
1. With the various ideas and beliefs, even among those who are supposed faithful members of the church, we must be careful that we do not condone and/or accept error.
 2. Brief discussion of **Romans 16:17**

I. Drawing lines

A. Can we draw a line? (**Amos 3:3**)

1. It is clear that even in the O.T. there were some who could not have fellowship with the faithful because of their disobedience to God.
 - a. A warning from God (**1 Kings 11:2**)
2. It is clear that we CAN draw a line as we find examples in the O.T. and commands to do so in the N.T. (**2 Cor 6:14-15**)

B. When do we draw the line?

1. When someone or a congregation attempts to call a matter of salvation and matter of opinion.
 - An example of an entire congregation being warned of a possible withdrawal of fellowship. (**Rev 2:5**)
2. When a person fails to turn from false teaching, the Bible teaches we must withdraw ourselves from them. (**Rom 16:17**).

Discuss Pendergrass blog posts

II. Matters of opinion

A. What is a matter of Opinion?

1. There are too many to list.
 - Times of services
 - What's the best time for a fellowship meal
 - When do we hold our gospel meeting, etc
2. In some areas things really are matters of opinion UNTIL we bind them by saying that any other idea or belief on this topic – is sinful and will result in one being lost.

III. Salvation issues

A. How would you define a “salvation issue” (**Jer 32:35**)

1. A salvation issue is anything that violates scripture (therefore is sinful); as a result, unrepented sin, would separate a person from God.
2. When does something, violate scripture (**Mt 15:9**)
 - When it violates a direct command of God.
 - When it is contrary to the examples we find in the Bible.
 - When there is not a command or act authorized by implication.

B. Matters of salvation

1. Praise teams, church choirs, hand clapping & Mechanical Instruments - (**Amos 6:5**)
2. Elder reaffirmation – no example of such in the N.T.
3. MDR – (**Mt 19:8-9**)
4. Children's church – (**1 Cor 11:18a, 20a**)
5. Fellowship with those who compromise truth (**Amos 3:3**)
 - a. Why? Because you've known them for a long time? Surely they wouldn't teach damnable doctrines? Right....
 - b. Because they are popular?
 - c. Because others have no problem with them?
 - d. Because you don't want to rock the boat?
 - e. Because you want to be labeled as trouble makers?

- Conc:
1. If you are concerned about the condition of your soul, you must guard it. (**Eph 5:6-7**).
 2. Full Invitation