

# TALK IT OVER

## Key Scriptures

### Romans 16:17-20

Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

<sup>19</sup> For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. <sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

**Revelation 2:20** But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

**Key Point:** Keep your eye out for those who cause divisions and seek to harm the faith of the naïve & young in faith. Avoid them.

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever needed to trap an animal? What happened?

**Start thinking:** Questions to get your group thinking.

- Do you think there is a contradiction here (v. 17-18) with what Paul taught about disputable matters in Romans 14:1-4? Why or why not?
- In discussing the need to grow in discernment (Romans 16:19), what practical steps can believers take to enhance their ability to discern good from evil in today's cultural environment?
- The Greek word skandalon means: **1.** to create an obstacle that causes someone to stumble (v. 17); **2.** to entice or cause to sin; **3.** strictly speaking it was the movable bait stick or trigger in a trap. What does it mean when skandalon is used to speak of the cross of Jesus and His crucifixion? (see Romans 9:33, 1 Corinthians 1:23, 1 Peter :6-8)

**Start sharing:** Questions to create openness.

- Can you think of examples of how people may cause divisions and who cause obstacles (Skandalon: the part of the trap that holds the bait)?
- What are some of the teachings that divide the church today?
- How do you handle individuals who cause strife and division? Avoid them? Talk about them? Confront them? Worry about them?
- Note the criticism Jesus gave to the church in Thyatira: What are we called to tolerate and not tolerate in the church?

**Start doing.**

- Be wise to what is good, and innocent in what is evil. How will you implement this and obey it this week on your journey to growing in discernment?

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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