

DISPUTABLE MATTERS

Dealing With Grey Matters

Four Categories

There are four categories to consider when dealing with life's questions:

- Biblical Convictions -- *What I Believe*
Truths within the Word of God which are eternally true. Essential. Non-negotiable. Indisputable
- Biblical Beliefs -- *What I Think*
Debate-worthy theological topics which true believers disagree. Non-essential. Disputable.
- Personal Convictions -- *What's right for me?*
Choices made regarding gray-area topics not mentioned in the Bible based on one's scriptural interpretation and personal willingness to live above reproach. Non-essential. Disputable
- Personal Preferences -- *What I want*
My personal opinions and desires based on non-spiritual topics. Non-essential. Disputable.

The Four Boxes Experiment

On the back of this paper, put each of these common topics into the correct category. Writing only the number is suggested, not the phrase.

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| 1. Mode of baptism | 13. Being punctual |
| 2. Toilet paper should unroll over the top. | 14. Salvation is by faith in grace alone |
| 3. Music / video games | 15. Rapture of the church |
| 4. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. | 16. The Blood of Jesus cleanses all sin. |
| 5. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. | 17. Being accountable to TBI Leaders |
| 6. Animal cruelty is not okay. | 18. The Trinity: God, three in one |
| 7. Women's role in the church | 19. Speaking politely to older people |
| 8. Photography is my favorite hobby. | 20. Credit cards vs. paying cash |
| 9. Gambling is okay if you tithe on your winnings. | 21. Creation vs. Evolution |
| 10. Personal appearance | 22. Tattoos / Body piercings |
| 11. Praying over your food | 23. Speaking in tongues |
| 12. Offering gas money to roommate | 24. Lying to fiance' about debt |

THE FOUR BOXES EXPERIMENT

BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS <i>Essential / Indisputable</i>	PERSONAL CONVICTIONS <i>Non-Essential / Disputable</i>
BIBLICAL BELIEFS <i>Non-Essential / Disputable</i>	PERSONAL PREFERENCES <i>Non-Essential / Disputable</i>

How should we respond, then, to our brothers and sisters in Christ?

IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY. IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY. IN ALL THINGS, CHARITY.