

Bi 203 Homework Assignment #03



Assignment Number

#03

Assignment Distributed

October 15, 2015

Assignment Due

October 22, 2015

1. Complete this weeks 07 Bible Reading
2. Read the attached article defining the 4 Ds / Die for – Divide for – Debate for – Decide for
3. Thinking about the Jerusalem counsel that was reviewed in chapter 15, Discuss this in terms of the four “Ds”: Which “D” do you think this counsel was dealing with and why?
4. Thinking about your church experience please identify 1or 2 things and explain why they may belong in each of the four “Ds”.

IS THERE A WAY TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING AND SHEEP IN WOLVES' CLOTHING?¹

One way is to distinguish levels of certainty. Then you can differentiate what's really essential from that which is merely controversial.

The first level of certainty covers truths we should be willing to *die for*. If you knowingly deny these, you show that you are outside the realm of evangelicalism and perhaps excluded from salvation in Christ. An example of such a truth is that Jesus is God uniquely come in the flesh. If we are vigilant about such essentials, we are less likely to fall for the cultural accommodations of Christianity, which lead to liberalism. Being vigilant also helps us keep secondary issues in perspective and avoid the divisions they create. Standing for these things does not make us fundamentalists. It does make us biblical.

Second are things we would *divide for*. We are Christians, fellow members of the body of Christ, but we can't be in the same local fellowship with everyone in clear conscience. The meaning of the sacraments and women serving as elders are typical division points. Such differences are legitimate so long as the unity of the body of Jesus Christ is affirmed and the dividing points are truly central issues. They become problematic when the dividing walls are so high that there is little contact between different groups and when arguments between the groups drain significant energy from our worship of God and hinder building godliness

¹ Driscoll, Mark, and Gerry Breshears. *Vintage Church: Timeless Truths and Timely Methods*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2008. Print

and proclaiming the gospel. Instead of blogging about them, talking trash, or sending hate mail condemning them to hell, we should love them and emphasize our unity in the essentials.

Third are things we would *debate for*. In the midst of ministering and laughing together, issues such as style of worship or political involvement come up and emotions may flare; we end up growling at each other. The wrestling may be prolonged or painful, but we do it while maintaining regular fellowship, joining together in worship and proclamation.

Finally are things we *decide for*. The differences over such issues spring from little more than personal opinion. In our churches, *decide fors* include issues like having a glass of wine with supper, raising hands in worship, or eating a vegan-only diet.

Divisive people are ones who elevate lower-level issues to *divide fors*. False teachers treat *die for* issues as questions open for humble discussion. As we utilize these levels as a community of believers, we can avoid the trap of being unnecessarily divisive on one hand and compromising the faith on the other.