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Disputable Matters (Debate)

By Rick Artis

Scripture:

Romans 14

Theme:

Handling matters of secondary importance among believers

Applications:

Keeping the 'Main Thing' the 'Main Thing'

Cast:

2 men or women

Setting:

Coffee Shop, Sidewalk Cafe type setting.

Time:

Saturday, Lunch time

Characters:

Larry/Lucy Legalist
Frank/Fern Freewill

If the debate is between 2 women, Janis and Peggy can be changed to Jim and Peter. The gender specific dialog concerning home schooling can be altered as needed.

Performance time:

8-10 minutes

(Frank is sitting at the table, eating lunch and reading his Bible. He is approached by Larry who has noticed Frank reading.)

Larry- Hey, Frank. How's it going?

Frank- Larry... I haven't seen you or Peggy out and about in the neighborhood for a while. Is everything alright at home? The kids are OK?

Larry- No worries, buddy. Everything's just fine and dandy? Peg and I took a week's vacation and went to a Christian Living Seminar. Let me tell you about it.

Frank- Sure. Have a seat.

Larry- Thanks. Anyway, the Fulfilling Christian Life conference was great. They showed us through the Scriptures how to live a really Fulfilling Christian Life. But.....

Frank- But what? Who wouldn't want to live a fulfilling Christian life, especially if the foundation is scriptural?

Larry- It sounds great, but the leaders really challenged us to look at what we believe and why we believe it.

Frank- And that's a bad thing?

Larry- No. Not bad, but hard. OK, well, here's a prime example. You're having a glass of wine with your lunch. You know what Ephesians says about dinking wine, right?

Frank- Yes, I do. And you'll notice I'm following what it says in Ephesians. I'm sure you remember what Paul wrote to Timothy about drinking a little wine? Wine was a common drink in the first century. Jesus even turned water into wine. It was His first miracle.

Larry- Sure, but for Timothy the wine was for medicinal reasons and, after all, in the first century they drank wine because the water wasn't always very sanitary. The alcohol killed off a lot of the stuff that would have made the people sick. We don't really have that problem today. And that's why Peg and I are considering only drinking water with our meals from now on.

Frank- (*skeptical*) And this will be part of your *Fulfilling* Christian Life?

Larry- Of course. Here's another example. What are you reading there?

Frank- The Bible.

Larry- I know it's the Bible. Which translation?

Frank- The English Standard Version. A lot of us at church are starting to use it.

Larry- The ESV is one of those really new versions, isn't it?

Frank- It's pretty new, but I really like they way it presents the Word, scholarly, but at the same time understandable.

Larry- Well... at the conference they again challenged us with the statement 'newer is not necessarily better' and often new isn't even correct.

Frank- So Larry, are you saying that all of the biblical translation work done since the 17th century has been wasted? That the efforts to make the Bible more readable, more accessible, to the average person has no value?

Larry- No not totally wasted. But, it is kinda confusing trying to sort through all of the different versions. Anyway, we're just gonna stick with the KJV. Not that New KJV mind you. The original King James Version. If it was good enough for Paul, it's good enough for me.

Frank- Larry, you know that Paul didn't use the...

Larry- That's a joke, Frank. Lighten up. Here's another thing we've decided because of the conference. We're pulling the kids out of public school. Peggy's will be home schooling them from now on.

Frank- And why would she do that?

Larry- Well, from what I've seen, the public schools are nothing but a 'hot-bed of liberal humanism'. We want to make sure our kids learn the truth. And with the drugs and the gangs and everything, we're convinced that home schooling is better over all.

Frank- I think it's commendable to want the children to learn the truth. But can't you teach them the truth at home and still send them to regular school? And is Peggy qualified to teach at the same level as the regular teachers?

Larry- She's great with the kids. She's been teaching them since birth. And she has their best interest at heart. What more could she need? And from what the kids tell me, it seems they spend more time at recess, in 'special' classes and having parties than actually learning anything.

Frank- I don't know, Larry. It takes a very special parent to effectively home school. I would just want to be sure the education was strong enough for the kids to go on after high school... Why do I think you encountered more challenges at your conference?

Larry- Right you are. Don't be surprised if there's another Larry Jr. running around here soon.

Frank- Why?

Larry- There's a very strong chance that we're not going to be using any birth control from now on.

Frank- And why would you do that?

Larry- The conference leaders reminded us that, 'children are a blessing from God'. And if He wants to bless us with more kids, we're not going to stand in His way.

Frank- And you believe this is the right thing to do because the conference leaders told you that? Don't you want to have some say in the matter?

Larry- Far be it from us to argue with the Scriptures.

Frank- And exactly how many Scriptures did they use to back that up?

Larry- I don't exactly remember. A couple, I think. We covered a lot of ground in a fairly short period of time. They put all the references in the notebook for us to take home.

Frank- So a couple of references and a list in a notebook is enough to make this kind of life changing decision? Did you read through the passages yourself to see if God was telling *you* something specific for *your* life?

Larry- Not yet. Like I said we covered a lot of stuff. I'll get to them sometime...soon. Anyway, what did you guys do while we were away?

Frank- Not too much. This weekend Janis and I went to see that new action, adventure movie.

Larry- Isn't that one rated 'R'?

Frank- I think it probably was.

Larry- And you went to see it in the theatre? You didn't wait for the home version to come out?

Frank- Yes, Larry. We went to see it in the theatre. What about it?

Larry- People might have seen you going in. You don't want to be a stumbling block do you?

Frank- Are you saying that watching an 'R' rated movie on video is ok, but going to see it in public isn't?

Larry- We need to be the example, Frank, we need to be the example.

(Continues)