

Guidelines for Controversial Issues (i.e. drinking, Calvinism, tongues, KJV bible, etc.):

1. Keep the main thing the main thing.

Be sure we separate essentials from non essentials. Essentials are those things that have a direct impact on the Gospel (Trinity, deity of Christ, blood atonement, etc.).

2. Could it cause unnecessary division?

If we take a firm stand on something that might be grey, could it cause unnecessary division? We should count the cost.

3. How firmly is it supported in the Word?

Is this something clearly supported in the Word or vaguely supported? Does the other side have equal support?

4. What is the “spirit” of the discussion?’

Those who hold to a certain view, do they do so with grace and humility or is their pride in their stance? The more “rigid” a person becomes about items that are controversial, the more we as leaders might need to step in.