



Where do we draw the line?

Zerubbabel's example in dealing with the "ecumenical/pragmatic" efforts of Rehum, Shimshai and Tattenai ...

So where do we draw the line?

Some people believe that we should come together with others on the things we have in common. But if we do not have the gospel in common, then nothing else matters. We do not draw lines, but God certainly does. And when God draws the line, then we must honor his word above all else.

Let's look at Zerubbabel's example when he was offered help by those who claimed that "we worship your God as you do." In the face of fierce opposition Zerubbabel fought against those who tried to forge a false unity by the things they held in common.

His opponents certainly pushed to make this connection, insisting that they were all worshipers of the same God—"We worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."

What were they saying? We worship as you worship, and we have been honoring your God for a long time—since we were brought to this land, as a matter of fact.

They were trying to establish

commonality, but Zerubbabel would have none of it—"You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD."

- (Ezra 4:1–3 ESV) Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel, 2 they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here." 3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."
- Commonality: features or characteristics held in common; possession or manifestation of common attributes; a common feature or attribute.
- Ecumenical: promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian churches.

CHILDREN OF THE FREE WOMAN



HAGAR
SLAVE WOMAN
CHILDREN ARE SLAVES
FLESH
UNDER THE LAW

(SARAI)
FREE WOMAN
CHILDREN ARE FREE
PROMISE
SPIRIT