



# ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- Jesus doesn't just want to lavish us with love, he wants us to be **transformed** by his love.

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (NLT)

"Live in harmony with one another..." Romans 12:16

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. Romans 14:1 (NIV)

### Identifying disputable things:

- Some things are **essential** things.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NLT)

- Some things are **important** things.
- Some things are **disputable** things.

### A few things to remember:

- Not everything is a **hill to die on**.
- In "disputable matters", unity is more important than **uniformity**.

2 For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Romans 14:2 (NLT)

14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. Romans 14:14 (NLT)

3 Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them... 5 In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. Romans 14:3,5 (NLT)

- Our differences should never **divide** us.

### How to handle differences in the church:

3 One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat... Romans 14:3

- Don't be a **jerk**.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you. This will glorify God! Romans 15:7

- Don't forget the **gospel**.

6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. Romans 14:6-8

- Never forget that your preferences are about honoring **Jesus**.

16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. Malachi 3:16

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## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups: *These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What tends to happen when we have differences in the church? What is the worse case scenario (in your opinion)? Is how we handle differences an important issue?
- What does it mean to be "weak in the faith"? Does weak in the faith mean less important? Weak in the faith can also mean new to the faith.
- Talk through the differences under the sub-heading "Identifying disputable things". How do we talk about all of these things with love and respect?
- What does it mean that not everything is a hill to die on?
- What does unity > uniformity mean?
- Let's just be real, How do we not be a jerk in our differences?
- What does it mean to "don't forget the gospel"? How does that change our attitude?
- All of our preferences should reflect our honor to Jesus. What does that mean?
- Read Malachi 3:16. Does it sober you to realize God records what we say to each other and if we honor His name?

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Today's Talk..



How we handle our differences Pt.1

Sunday, October 6th, 2024

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