



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. Romans 1:16 (NLT)

- When we experience the gospel we **display** the gospel.
- How we **love** each other really matters.

Quick Review:

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

- Some things are **essential** things.
- Some things are **important** things.
- Some things are **disputable** things.
- The way we deal with these differences is with **love**.

14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. 15 They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. Romans 2:14-15 (NLT)

Convictions - A **belief** that something is either right or wrong.

Important things to consider:

- Your convictions are a gift from God, **listen** to them.
- 22 You may know that there is nothing wrong with what you do, even from God's point of view, but keep it to yourself; don't flaunt your faith in front of others who might be hurt by it. In this situation, happy is the man who does not sin by doing what he knows is right. 23 But anyone who believes that something he wants to do is wrong shouldn't do it. He sins if he does, for he thinks it is wrong, and so for him it is wrong. Anything that is done apart from what he feels is right is sin. Romans 14:22-23 (TLB)
- We will all give a personal **account** to God for how we lived by these convictions.

10 You have no right to criticize your brother or look down on him. Remember, each of us will stand personally before the Judgment Seat of God....12 Yes, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:10,12 (TLB)

How to handle disputable differences: Part 2

- Don't **judge** the preferences of others based on your convictions.
- 4 They are God's servants, not yours. They are responsible to him, not to you. Let him tell them whether they are right or wrong. And God is able to make them do as they should. Romans 14:4
- 10 You have no right to criticize your brother or look down on him... Romans 14:10
- Live your life in a way that won't cause others to **stumble**.

15 For if your brother or sister is hurt by what you eat, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy, by what you eat, someone for whom Christ died... 21 It is a good thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. Romans 14:15,21

Action Steps:

- Pursue **unity** over uniformity.

17 For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. 18 If you let Christ be Lord in these affairs, God will be glad; and so will others. 19 In this way aim for harmony in the church, and try to build each other up. Romans 14:17-19 (NLT)

- Allow the gospel in you to **prioritize** others over yourself.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did... Romans 15:1-3a (Msg)



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 is the gospel and why is it good news?
- Again, we're talking about disputable things, not essential or important things. What is the difference between these?
- Should the church handle differences differently than people in the world? Why?
- What are "personal convictions"? How do we test our convictions to see if they are right?
- Why are our personal convictions so important? (Romans 2:14-15; 14:22-23)
- What does it mean that we will "give an account to God" for how we lived by these convictions?
- What are some ways that we judge others based on our preferences? Why is this wrong? (Romans 14:4)
- What does it mean to live our lives in a way that won't cause others to stumble? What are some ways we can cause others to stumble?
- How do we pursue unity rather than uniformity?
- How do we prioritize the preferences of others over our own preferences?

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Today's Talk..




How we handle our differences Pt.2

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