



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Dr. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

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Focus: Rooted – A Study Through Romans

Week 17: Kingdom Living in a Divided World (Romans 13-14)

Dr. Felix L. Cole – Senior Pastor

Introduction:

Paul now teaches believers how to live faithfully in a divided and difficult world. Romans 13 focuses on the believer's witness before society, while Romans 14 focuses on the believer's relationships within the church. Together, these chapters challenge believers to live honorably, love deeply, remain spiritually awake, and preserve unity without compromising truth. Christians are called to represent Christ faithfully both in public life and in personal relationships.

Key Scriptures

Romans 13:1-7 Romans 13:8-10 Romans 13:11-14 Romans 14:1-4,
Romans 14:13-19 Romans 14:22-23

1. Live Honorably Before the World – (Romans 13:1–7): Paul teaches believers to respect legitimate authority and live responsibly within society. Government exists because God is a God of order and not confusion. However, Christian submission never replaces ultimate allegiance to God.

A. Respect Authority Properly (13:1–5)	B. Maintain Integrity Publicly (13:6–7)
† God establishes order	† Honor matters
† Authority has legitimate purposes	† Integrity strengthens witness
† Christians should live responsibly	† Believers should reflect Christ publicly
† Submission is not blind obedience	† Public conduct impacts Christian witness

Truths to See

1. Christians respect authority without worshiping authority
2. Earthly governments are temporary, but God's Kingdom is eternal
3. Christian witness matters in public life

Biblical Cross References

Acts 5:29, Daniel 3:16–18, Jeremiah 29:7, 1 Timothy 2:1–2, Revelation 13

2. Let Love Shape Your Public Witness – (Romans 13:8–10): Paul shifts from government to love. The Christian ethic is not rooted in power, but in love. Love fulfills the law because love seeks the good of others.

A. Love Fulfills the Law (13:8–10)

- † Love protects dignity
- † Love refuses harm
- † Love seeks justice and mercy
- † Love reflects Christ's character

Truths to See

1. Christian maturity is demonstrated through love
2. The gospel reshapes how believers treat people
3. Love is evidence of transformation

Biblical Cross References

Matthew 22:37-40, John 13:34-35, Galatians 5:14, 1 Corinthians 13

3. Wake Up Spiritually – (Romans 13:11-14): Paul warns believers not to drift spiritually while the world grows darker. Christians are called to live as people of light.

A. Wake Out of Sleep (13:11-12)	B. Put On Christ (13:13-14)
† Salvation is nearer than before	† Reject sinful living
† Darkness should be rejected	† Put on the armor of light
† Believers are called to spiritual alertness	† Let Christ shape your conduct
† The church must remain spiritually awake	† Live in a way that reflects Christ publicly

Truths to See

1. Spiritual drift is dangerous
2. The church must remain spiritually awake
3. Believers should visibly reflect Christ

Biblical Cross References

Ephesians 5:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8, Colossians 3:10-14

KEEPING UNITY INSIDE THE CHURCH (Romans 14)

1. Stop Judging Each Other Over Disputable Matters (Romans 14:1-12): Paul addresses disagreements inside the church regarding personal convictions and conscience matters. Believers are called to show grace toward one another.

A. Stop Judging One Another (14:1-4)

- † Every believer is growing
- † God alone is ultimate judge
- † Unity requires humility

B. Respect Conscience Matters (14:5-12)

- † Not every issue is a salvation issue
- † Believers may hold different convictions
- † Christ remains Lord over all believers

Truths to See

1. Unity does not require uniformity
2. Preferences should not become division
3. Grace must shape Christian relationships

ESSENTIALS vs. PREFERENCES	
ESSENTIALS	PREFERENCES / CONSCIENCE ISSUES
<i>Core Gospel truths:</i>	<i>Areas where believers may differ:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST RESURRECTION HOLINESS BIBLICAL TRUTH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRADITIONS PERSONAL CONVICTIONS CULTURAL PRACTICES DISPUTABLE MATTERS
<p>KEY TRUTH: The church becomes unhealthy when preferences become doctrine.</p>	

2. Don't Let Freedom Harm Others – (Romans 14:13-23): Christian liberty should always be governed by love. Mature believers consider how their actions affect others.

A. Pursue Peace and Edification (14:13-19)

- † Avoid causing others to stumble
- † Build others up spiritually
- † Prioritize peace and growth

B. Walk in Faith and Conviction (14:20-23)

- † Conscience matters
- † Faith should guide conduct
- † Love should govern liberty

Truths to See

1. Maturity considers the needs of others
2. Christian freedom should build up, not tear down
3. Love is greater than personal preference