



KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 14:1–13 (NASB)

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

START TALKING

What is the most ridiculous disagreement you have ever had with someone?

DISPUTABLE MATTERS

Pastor Lyle made an important distinction between:

Level 1: salvation, truth about Christ, the gospel

Level 2: moral absolutes clearly stated in Scripture

Level 3: wisdom issues, judgments, applications, disputed matters

Why is it important to know the difference between biblical commands and personal applications?

Why do Christians sometimes elevate their convictions to the level of Scripture? And what damage does this cause?

Why do experience, upbringing, and personality shape our convictions so strongly?

CONVENTIONS AND HUMILITY

Paul had convictions. He was not neutral. Yet he still welcomed believers who disagreed with him.

How can we hold deep convictions and still be humble?

Have you ever discovered later that a strong opinion of yours was shaped more by background or preference than by Scripture?

GOD HAS ACCEPTED THEM

One of the strongest lines in the sermon was "*How can we reject someone whom God has accepted?*"

What does it reveal about our pride when we withdraw fellowship over disputable matters?

How should God's acceptance of us shape our acceptance of others?

How can remembering that a brother belongs to the Lord soften our spirit?

UNITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN UNIFORMITY

The sermon said clearly: unity is more important than uniformity.

What is the difference between unity and uniformity?

How can a church remain unified without pretending everyone thinks the same way?

PURSUE PEACE AND BUILDING UP

Paul moves the church from merely tolerating one another to actively building one another up.

What is the difference between tolerating others and actively pursuing peace?

What does it look like to build up someone whose position you disagree with?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there any issue where you have confused your conviction with biblical authority?