

**THE WILL OF GOD**  
**The gospel compels us to live in harmony**  
**Romans 14:1-12**

**Big Idea: The gospel compels us to live in harmony under the lordship of Christ.**

**Who are the “weak” and who are the “strong”?**

- The “weak” were predominantly Jewish Christians who did not eat meat and who observed special days.
- The “strong” were predominantly Gentile Christians who eat anything and who thought that all days were alike.

**Live in harmony . . .**

**1. Because God has accepted us (14:1-3)**

**a. We are commanded to welcome one another without arguing (v. 1).**

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

**1 Tim. 2:8**

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

**b. We are to cease our sinful attitudes through repentance and forgiveness (vv. 2-3).**

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

Indeed, the best way to determine what our attitude to other people should be is to determine what God’s attitude to them is. This principle is better even than the golden rule. It is safe to treat others as we would like them to treat us, but it is safer still to treat them as God does. The former is a ready-made guide based on our fallen self-centeredness, while the latter is a standard based on God’s perfection.

**John Stott – Romans, p. 361**

**2. Because Christ is our risen Lord (14:4-9)**

**a. We are all Christ’s servants who are accountable to him (v. 4).**

4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

**b. We are to examine our behavior and motives (vv. 5-6).**

(1) Behavior (v. 5)

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

(2) Motives (v. 6)

6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord.

The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

> We need to look at any practice and ask these questions:

- Can I thank God for this?
- Can I do this unto the Lord?
- Can I do this in Christ name?
- Will it reflect the character of Christ?
- Will this glorify God?
- Will this build me up or enslave me?
- Will it hinder me from sharing Christ?
- Will this encourage others or be a stumbling block?

**Rom. 14:23**

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**1 Cor. 10:31**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**c. We are to live for him (vv. 7-9).**

7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we 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.

**3. Because we are God's family (14:10a)**

10a Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother?

**Rom. 13:10**

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

**4. Because we are accountable to God (10b-12)**

10b 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 confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Philippians 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**Benediction**

**Romans 15:5-7**

5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.