

# Vintage: Changing Times. Changeless God.

## Week 10: Love In The Grey Areas

**Weekly Summary:** Why do church people chip away at each other? Why is everything an argument—from the song selection to the color of the carpet? How can we get back to the unity and love that Jesus intended for his church? Romans ends with an urgent encouragement to seek peace with those who call upon Jesus' name.

❖ Big Idea: Give it up for Jesus.

❖ Romans 14:1 - Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable

❖ Weak: Can't do everything God says they can.

Strong: Can do everything God says they can.

❖ Romans 14:1-4 - Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Romans 14:5-6 - One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

❖ Romans 14-15 (selected verses) - "Accept...without quarreling...must not treat with contempt...must not judge...let us stop passing judgment... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God...Accept one another."

❖ Weak & Strong: Give it (your judgment) up for Jesus.

- ❖ Romans 14:13-15, 19-21 - Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. 14 I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. 15 If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ...19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.
  
- ❖ Strong: Give it (your **rights**) up for Jesus.
  
- ❖ Romans 15:3, 7 - For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ... 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
  
- ❖ Jesus: Gave it (his **life**) up for you.
  
- ❖ Romans 15:5-6 - May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Points to Ponder**

1. Name 3 “disputable matters” (aka non-biblical issues) that have caused tension between you and fellow Christians. If you could re-do those conversations in light of Romans 14-15, what would be different?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9, the chapter where “922church.com” (The CORE’s website) comes from. What does Paul say about his “rights” as a Christian? How do his words apply to your life today?
3. Think through the importance of both accurate knowledge about the Bible and love for people who have inaccurate knowledge about the Bible. Which matters more, knowledge or love? How do you become a Christian who is “200 Proof Grace and Truth”?

## **Homework For Next Week: Proverbs 23:19-35**

*“A Christian is a perfectly free lord, subject to none.  
A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant, subject to all.”  
~ Martin Luther*

## **Worship Through Song at The CORE:**

1. “Live Like That” - by Sidewalk Prophets
2. “Come As You Are” - by Crowder
3. “We Believe” - by Newsboys
4. “All The People Said Amen” - by Matt Maher