

**Living & Loving through Disagreement**  
**(Principles from 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Conflict)**  
**Romans 14—15:13 & 1 Corinthians 8—10**  
**First Christian Church—August 2, 2020**  
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**Shades of Gray...**

Illustration: 6 or 9 ?

**Different perspectives lead to different conclusions about the same issue.**

I need to understand that from where I stand that number will never be a 9.  
I need to understand that from where she stands that number will never be a 6.  
I need to accept that, from our differing perspectives, we are both right.  
Am I willing? If I am not, then I am the one who is wrong!

**GOD's Story— Living & Loving through Disagreement**  
**—Principles from 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians Conflict—**  
**In Matters of Opinion, Romans 14:1, 13; 15:7**

Story of Romans 14 & 15...

1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Conflict—

- Surface: To eat or not to eat food offered to idols?
- Reality: To accept or not accept my brother/sister with a different perspective?

21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Conflict—

- To wear or not wear a face mask?
- Racism is/is not systemic in America.
- Law enforcement in America is/is not intrinsically racist.
- To be and vote liberal or conservative?
- Not, "What's wrong with you?" but, "What happened—what is your experience?"

- Principle #1: We accept; we do not judge in matters of opinion.  
Romans 14:1, 13; 15:7

**Big Idea:**

We will never always agree. (We have different perspectives.)  
But we can always love and accept each other. (Christ has accepted us!)

**Big Challenge:**

Express love and acceptance to someone with whom you fundamentally disagree.

**Right On!**

(NT Scripture Readings: Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 14:10-12)