

## **Navigating Differences with Grace**

### **Bible Passage: Romans 14:1-10**

**Summary:** In this passage, the Apostle Paul provides clear **instructions on how to manage disagreements among believers regarding non-essential issues.** Paul emphasizes that these differences should not lead to division within the church, but rather serve as an opportunity for loving acceptance and mutual respect, **as each believer has their own journey with God.**

**Application:** This sermon will help Christians understand the importance of valuing others' convictions and practices, thereby fostering a community that is built on love and support rather than judgment. It also teaches the necessity of **creating safe spaces where differing opinions can be shared and respected, leading to healthier relationships within the body of Christ. (Non essentials)**

**Teaching:** The key teaching is that God's acceptance of each believer should inspire them to accept one another. In navigating our differences, **Christians are called to prioritize unity over uniformity, demonstrating that diversity in faith perspectives enriches community life rather than detracts from it.**

**How this passage could point to Christ:** Throughout scripture, Christ taught His disciples to love one another as He loved them, highlighting the beauty within diversity. His actions and teachings serve as an example of how to accept others, regardless of their differences, and He empowers believers to embody this love in their relationships.

**Big Idea: The big idea is that a strong and loving Christian community thrives when we choose acceptance over judgment, showing that our love**

**for one another reflects our commitment to Christ, who unites us despite our differences.**

### 1. Accept Without Auditing

[Romans 14:1-3](#)

Paul encourages the Roman believers to accept those whose faith is weaker

Accept

[Acts 18:26](#) “26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

and weak - little faith

is this a bad thing, be mindful not to go into a category of righteousness here

Passing judgement- what is it (argue)

[1st Cor. 8:1-13](#) (reference) ch 10- Israel's mistakes

All things- freedom

vegetables only - limits

God has accepted them

[Romans 5:6-11](#) “6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we

shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

The ultimate proof of God’s acceptance of Christ as our justification is the sending of the Holy Spirit.

*Great Doctrines of the Bible* (2), 47

**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

God’s acceptance of man is Holy Spirit

This highlights the importance of valuing diversity within the Christian community.

Emphasize how Christ embraced individuals from varying backgrounds and beliefs, offering a model for us to follow.

This section illustrates the need for believers to prioritize acceptance over criticism, fostering an environment where love and unity can flourish despite differences.

## 2. Appreciate Divine Diversity

[Romans 14:4–6](#)

in this section, you could emphasize that every believer stands or falls before their own Master, which is Christ.

The strength of any community is on whose we are.

We are the Lord’s

Lord is able

able-

to make him stand

When we are the Lord's we will stand; strength

Stress that God alone judges the sincerity and devotion of each person, thus removing the burden of judgment from our fellow Christians.

[1 Timothy 4:4–5](#) “4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.”

Highlight Christ's ultimate role as the one who sustains each of us, regardless of our particular practices or opinions.

[1 Corinthians 10:31](#) “31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Encourage the congregation to recognize that diverse expressions of faith enrich the community when viewed as a complement to Christ's inclusive nature.

### 3. Advance in Altruism

[Romans 14:7–10](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:14–15](#) “14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

Maybe focus on how Paul details that we live to the Lord and that our actions, whether in life or death, pertain to our relationship with God.

Christ's example of sacrificial love and servanthood can inspire believers to live selflessly, considering the impact of their actions on others.

Suggest that this perspective fosters a community where believers support each other's individual journeys.

Acknowledge that when believers prioritize their unity in Christ, they reflect His love visibly to the world.

[2 Corinthians 5:10](#) “10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

[1 Corinthians 4:3–5](#) “3 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. 4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. 5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

[2 Corinthians 13:4](#) “4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.”