

IT'S NOT ABOUT US  
Romans 14:13-23 (NIV)

1. When we disagree on NON-ESSENTIAL matters, we should seek to be CHARITABLE.  
*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.*  
Romans 14:13 (NIV)  
  
*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*  
Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)
2. Rather than create space for DISUNITY, demonstrate love and humility by DEFERRING to others.  
*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. <sup>15</sup>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.*  
Romans 14:14-15 (NIV)
3. Remember that our focus is to become like CHRIST, not to follow RULES or misuse FREEDOM.  
*Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup>because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. <sup>19</sup>Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*  
Romans 14:16-19 (NIV)  
  
*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*  
Galatians 5:22-26 (NIV)
4. Seek to know your AUDIENCE and live with APPROPRIATE AUTHENTICITY.  
*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. <sup>21</sup>It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. <sup>22</sup>So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. <sup>23</sup>But whoever*

*has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.*

Romans 14:20-23 (NIV)

- Be CONSIDERATE.
- Be CONVINCED.
- Be CONSISTENT.