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## Coping With Conflicting Convictions

**Romans 14:1-15:7**

Scott Merriner – August 28, 2022

*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion.  
Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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### Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

**Take some time to look up and read: Romans 13**

1. What big ideas does Paul work to communicate in these verses about: freedom/liberty in Christ, passing judgment, living in harmony with brothers and sisters in Christ, how to handle differences in conviction?

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### Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

**Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life**

2. Take some time to brainstorm a list of spiritual convictions that can cause conflict between believers or in the church.
3. What spiritual conviction do you possess that creates the most conflict with other Christians?
4. Strategies for coping with conflicting convictions include:
  - Run from the temptation to quarrel (14:1)
  - Remember we are family (14:3)
  - Resist assuming different convictions are sinful (14:5-6)
  - Respect God’s authority to judge (14:10)
  - Refrain from freedoms that might cause others to stumble (14:20-21)
  - Remain on the “high ridge of spiritual discipline” (14:22-23)
  - Rejoice in God’s glory (15:5-7)
- With whom do you most need to employ these coping mechanisms?
- Identify a strategy where God has given you recent victory, understanding, or breakthrough.
- Identify a strategy where you need God’s help to experience, victory, understanding, or breakthrough.
5. How would you explain these passages of scripture to someone who is considering the Christian faith but struggling to understand the heart and ways of followers of Jesus?

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### Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.

6. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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**We’re here!**

We would love to hear about how things are going in your life group!  
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, [communitylife@changeportalaska.com](mailto:communitylife@changeportalaska.com)  
A primary resource in compiling these questions has been the *NIV Life Application Study Bible* (Zondervan, 1984)