

ROMANS 14:1-12

GRACE IN THE GRAY

Big Idea: Because every believer belongs to the Lord and will give an account to Him, we must welcome one another, holding firmly to biblical truth while extending grace in gray areas.

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER (Romans 14:1-4)

- What does Paul mean by “opinions,” and how can we distinguish between matters clearly commanded or forbidden by Scripture and matters where Christians may hold different convictions? (e.g. 1 Corinthians 8:8-9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Why are believers tempted to “despise” Christians whose convictions are more restrictive or “pass judgment” on Christians whose convictions allow greater freedom? (e.g. Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 2:3-4)
- How should the truth that “God has welcomed him” shape the way we receive and relate to believers whose personal convictions differ from our own? (e.g. Romans 15:7; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-14)

LIVE FOR THE LORD (Romans 14:5-9)

- What does Paul mean when he says each believer should be “fully convinced in his own mind,” and how can we develop convictions shaped by Scripture rather than simply adopting the convictions of others? (e.g. Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)
- How does Paul’s emphasis on doing everything “in honor of the Lord” move us beyond simply asking, “Is this wrong?” to asking, “Is this wise, is this best, and is this most glorifying to God?” (e.g. 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23, 31; Colossians 3:17)
- What does it mean practically that “whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s,” and how should Christ’s lordship govern both our convictions and our freedoms? (e.g. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20)

REALIZE WE ANSWER TO GOD (Romans 14:10-12)

- Why are we often quicker to “pass judgment” on another believer than to examine our own hearts, motives, and faithfulness to Christ? (e.g. Matthew 7:1-5; James 4:11-12)
- How should knowing that “we will all stand before the judgment seat of God” affect the way we speak about and respond to Christians whose convictions differ from ours? (e.g. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- What would change in our relationships with other believers if we spent less time evaluating their convictions and more time examining our own lives in light of the reality that “each of us will give an account of himself to God”? (e.g. Psalm 139:23-24)

Final Thought to Consider: We should extend grace where God has given freedom, but we don’t call something gray that God has called black or white.