

Accept One Another

Romans 14:1-15:14

Introduction

- Romans 14 is a chapter that describes conflict between Christians
- Christians are instructed on how to behave so that these conflicts do not cause strife or division among them
- Goal of these instructions is stated in Rom. 15:7 where Paul says we are to accept one another – view each other as faithful brethren and be in partnership with one another in the Lord

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Accept One Another

Rom 15:7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

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Introduction

- In order to accept one another, we must realize there will be differences among us
- How we understand the nature of these differences will determine how we understand Romans 14
- Some wrongly assert that we should accept one another even if some believe, teach, practice and defend error, go beyond what we are commanded to do or not do in the apostles' teaching

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

Tit 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Tit 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

2Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1Co 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

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Romans 14 Does Not Teach We Should Accept Those Who Believe and Teach Error

1Co 1:12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

1Co 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

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Some Examples of Errors Not To Be Placed In Romans 14

1. Instrumental music and other perversions of worship
2. Perversions of the work of a local church
3. Marriage, divorce and remarriage
4. Perversions about the nature of Jesus Christ

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Introduction

- In Romans 14, the nature of these differences between Christians is confined to matters that are purely optional for individual Christians to either do or not do
- If we do not learn to accept one another, opinions are raised to a mandatory level of compliance that results in needless strife and division among Christians
- How and when are we to accept one another?

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Accept One Another

1. What does faith mean in Romans 14?
2. Who are the strong and weak brethren in Romans 14?
3. How must the strong behave toward the weak?
4. How must the weak behave toward the strong?
5. Commands applicable to both the strong and the weak

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

- From the context, faith in Romans 14 refers to strongly held opinions relating to matters that are not in conflict with the teaching of Christ
- To be pleasing to God, we must exercise our individual Christian liberties with a clear conscience, having no doubts that what we are doing is right in God's sight

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

- In other words, faith is used in Romans 14 to describe belief and practice of individual Christian liberties which do not involve violating Christ's teaching
- No local church actions are being considered in Romans 14

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

Rom 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

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What Does Faith Mean In Romans 14?

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Rom 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

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Examples of Things Optional In Romans 14

1. Food – eat certain meats or not
2. Days – observe days or not observe days
3. Wine (not alcoholic) – drink or not drink

Whether a Christian has permissive or restrictive beliefs in these areas makes no difference to God, does not involve sin

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Examples of Things Optional Today In Romans 14

1. Food – eat certain meats or not
2. Days – observe privately certain days in some way such as remembering your Christian birthday
3. Clothing – Wearing a suit and tie on Sunday or not doing so

Whether a Christian has permissive or restrictive beliefs in these areas makes no difference to God, does not involve sin

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Who Are The Strong And Weak Brethren In Romans 14?

- The strong brother in Romans 14 is the one who has a fuller knowledge of God's Word enabling him to act with a clear conscience without restrictions
- The weak brother in Romans 14 is the one who has a lesser knowledge of God's Word leading him to restrict his Christian liberty because he feels certain things would be wrong for him to do although God allows them

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The Strong Brother In Romans 14

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

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The Weak Brother In Romans

14

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

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Who Are The Strong And Weak Brethren In Romans 14?

- We will not understand how to apply Romans 14 unless we understand who is strong and who is weak
- Both strong and weak believe they are right and in fact they both can be in matters of opinion
- But, the burden of how to behave is placed on the Christian who has greater knowledge of the gospel

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How Must The Strong Behave Toward The Weak?

1. Accept him without passing judgment on his opinions
2. Do not regard him with contempt
3. Do not put a stumbling block in his way
4. Pursue things which make for peace and edification
5. Bear his weaknesses

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Accept Him Without Passing Judgment On His Opinions

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

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Do Not Regard Him With Contempt

Rom 14:3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

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Do Not Regard Him With Contempt

Rom 14:11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

Rom 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

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Accept One Another

1. What does faith mean in Romans 14?
2. Who are the strong and weak brethren in Romans 14?
3. How must the strong behave toward the weak?
4. How must the weak behave toward the strong?
5. Commands applicable to both the strong and the weak

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How Must The Strong Behave Toward The Weak?

1. Accept him without passing judgment on his opinions
2. Do not regard him with contempt
3. Do not put a stumbling block in his way
4. Bear his weaknesses

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Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

- From love, we are to seek the edifying of our weak brethren not their destruction
- If need be, the strong brother must give up his liberty if it causes a weaker brother to follow him in something he believes is sinful
- When the weak follows the strong and doubts he is doing right, it becomes sin to him and to the strong who is leading him, causing him to stumble offending him

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Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

- Therefore offending a weak brother is not doing something that makes him upset
- Offending a brother in this context is not doing something that is sinful in and of itself

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Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

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Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

Rom 14:18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 37

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles.

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 38

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. 39

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

1Co 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

1Co 8:4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 40

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

1Co 8:7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

1Co 8:8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. 41

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

1Co 8:9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1Co 8:10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 42

Do Not Put A Stumbling Block In His Way

1Co 8:11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

1Co 8:12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

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Bear His Weaknesses

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

Rom 15:2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

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Bear His Weaknesses

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

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Bear His Weaknesses

Rom 15:6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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How Must The Strong Behave Toward The Weak?

1. Accept him without passing judgment on his opinions
2. Do not regard him with contempt
3. Do not put a stumbling block in his way
4. Bear his weaknesses

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How Must The Weak Behave Toward The Strong?

1. Do not judge him
2. Follow your convictions with a clear conscience before God

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Do Not Judge Him

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

Rom 14:3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

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Do Not Judge Him

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

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Do Not Judge Him

Rom 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

Rom 14:7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

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Do Not Judge Him

Rom 14:8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Rom 14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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Follow Your Convictions With A Clear Conscience Before God

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating* is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

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How Must The Weak Behave Toward The Strong?

1. Do not judge him
2. Follow your convictions with a clear conscience before God

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Commands Applicable To Both The Strong And The Weak

1. Follow your convictions with a clear conscience before God
2. Do not judge or condemn each other
3. Accept one another

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Follow Your Convictions With A Clear Conscience Before God

Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

Rom 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

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Do Not Judge Or Condemn Each Other

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

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Accept One Another

Rom 15:7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

Rom 15:8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers,

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Accept One Another

Rom 15:9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

Rom 15:10 Again he says, "REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

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Accept One Another

Rom 15:11 And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."

Rom 15:12 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

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Accept One Another

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

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Commands Applicable To Both The Strong And The Weak

1. Follow your convictions with a clear conscience before God
2. Do not judge or condemn each other
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