

ACCEPTING EACH OTHER

Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 37

Romans 14:1-13

I. "DISPUTABLE MATTERS"

Definition: An issue that the Bible is silent on.

II. THE SOLUTION: ACCEPT

"Accept him who is weak in the faith without passing judgment on disputable matters." Romans 14:1

III. HOW DO I DO IT?

1. By not labeling them.

"Accept him who is weak in the faith without passing judgment on disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. "

Romans 14:1-2

Two groups:
the Strong & the Weak

2. By not judging them.

"The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him." Romans 14:3

3. By not trying to change them.

"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls and he will stand for the Lord is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4

IV. WHY AM I TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH ME?

1. Because God has already accepted him.

"The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him." Romans 14:3

2. Because it's not my responsibility.

"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls..." Romans 14:4

3. Because I don't know their motives.

"One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God." Romans 14:5-6

4. Because we're related to each other.

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone." Romans 14:7

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

5. Because only Christ has the right to judge.

"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." Romans 14:8-9

6. Because I'm only accountable for myself.

"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." Romans 14:10-12

Conclusion: "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another." Romans 14:13