

ROMANS

— THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING —

**Accept Love and
Build Up
Romans 14**



Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

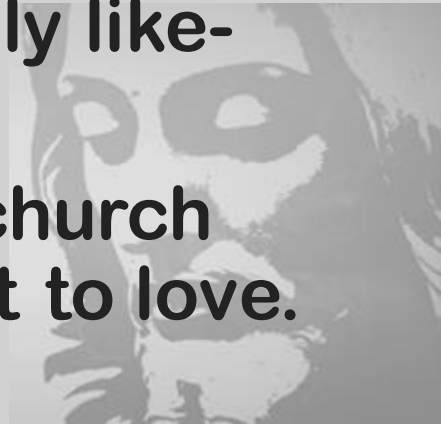


Romans 12:9-10 NIV

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.



- **Recap: we are terrible people, separated from God for now and forever because of sin.**
- **Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection and our faith is the only hope we have.**
- **Once we're transformed by grace, we want to be living sacrifices.**
- **Paul says we do this by loving other believers sincerely, being devoted to each other, keeping a scorecard of outing each other in honor.**
- **We also love people we don't naturally like- even the government!**
- **He tells us to love each other in the church again- because we can be so difficult to love.**



Romans 14:1-4 NIV

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.



Romans 14:10-13 NIV

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. ¹¹ It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

¹³ 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 14:19 NIV

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.



- The early church had the same reasons we do to be divided, including racial strife, economic differences, and religious divides.
- The church is the one place where we aren't supposed to be defined by our ethnic origins, family position, religious practice or economic status rather, we are defined by our believe in Jesus, and grace & love for each other.



- **What was dividing this young church?**
 - **Ethnic pressures**
 - **Pagan backgrounds**
 - **Food**
 - **Religious practices**
 - **Ethical practices**
- **Important to note that NONE of these is identified in Scripture as patently sinful; they're disputes about how to best follow Jesus.**
- **Most of our “righteous anger” at other Christians is just we don't like they way they do it or we don't like them!**



- Paul doesn't pick a side; he addresses our hearts' motivations:
 - Love vs judgment; holding others in contempt; doing what leads to peace; seek to mutually build up each other
- When we harp on our differences:
 - We push others away or out
 - We push ourselves into closed groups
- Paul doesn't say, "Go find people just like you and do life with them"
- He tells us to intentionally build community with those who are VERY different from us
- We adjust our lives to intentionally form relationships with those who are "other" from us.



- Paul doesn't say, "Go find people just like you and do life with them"
- He tells us to intentionally build community with those who are VERY different from us
- We adjust our lives to intentionally form relationships with those who are "other" from us.



- The NT answer to this isn't "culture blindness" where ethnicity, gender, age, nationality, etc., don't matter
- They matter, but they are not ultimate.
- They don't get us in with Jesus and they are not how we judge ourselves or others.
- God redeems every part of our cultural origins and uses it for Kingdom work.
- The Kingdom is better because you are uniquely who you are!



- **NOTE-** this is **NOT** about right doctrine, especially around salvation.
- What do we do with everyone we think is getting it all wrong?
- **LOVE**
- **ACCEPT**



Romans 14:19-21 NIV

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.



- Paul is asking for real love and grace for others on things that don't have to do with salvation.
- If you're asking for every believer to do everything exactly the way you do them- its legalism.
- Keep growing up and don't judge!
- If you're constantly asking, "How much can I do without sinning?" you're immature.
- Keep growing up, avoid the appearance of evil, seek to honor the Lord in all things.



Romans 14:13-14 The Message

"Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is."



"A gospel culture is harder to lay hold of than gospel doctrine. It requires more relational wisdom and finesse. It involves stepping into a kind of community unlike anything we've experienced, where we happily live together on a love we can't create. A gospel culture requires us not to bank on our own importance or virtues, but to forsake self-assurance and exult together in Christ alone..."



The primary barrier to displaying the beauty of Jesus in our churches comes from the way we reinsert ourselves into that sacred center that belongs to him alone. Exalting ourselves always diminishes his visibility. That is why cultivating a gospel culture requires a profound, moment by moment “unselfing” by every one of us. It is personally costly, even painful...So much is set against us, within and without. But the triumph of the gospel in our churches is still possible, as we look to Christ alone. He will help us." Ray Ortlund, *The Gospel*



- Love covers a multitude of sins and allows us to do the good work of the gospel together.
- Are you ghosting someone at TSF? Being ghosted by someone else here?
- What will you do if you don't like leadership at your church?
- Let's be mature; let's build each other up, not just put up with each other!
- As a church, we will be as accepting, loving, nonjudgemental and mature **AS YOU MAKE US TO BE!**



