



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

AGREEING TO DISAGREE

In Romans 14, God teaches us that, when it comes to doubtful things (matters on which He has not spoken definitively), we are to live by our convictions and respect the convictions of others.

Romans 14:1

¹ **Receive** one who is weak in the faith, *but not to disputes* over doubtful things.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM ROMANS 14

- ✓ If God has addressed it, the matter is settled.
- ✓ If you do, don't despise those who don't. And if you don't, don't criticize the one who does.
- ✓ Whatever you do or don't do, let it be for God's honor.
- ✓ Sacrifice your liberty if love requires it.
- ✓ Relationship is more important than rules.
- ✓ Live by your convictions.

*Guiding
Principles*

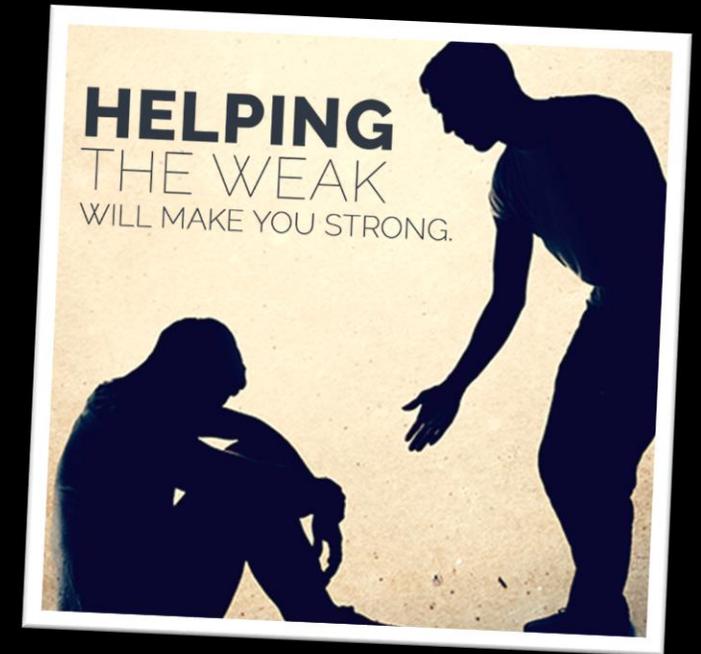


WHEN WE DISAGREE ABOUT “DOUBTFUL THINGS”

God places the responsibility of being “the adult in the room” on those who are strong. The stronger helps the weaker.

Romans 15:1

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.



CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE!

Romans 15:2-6

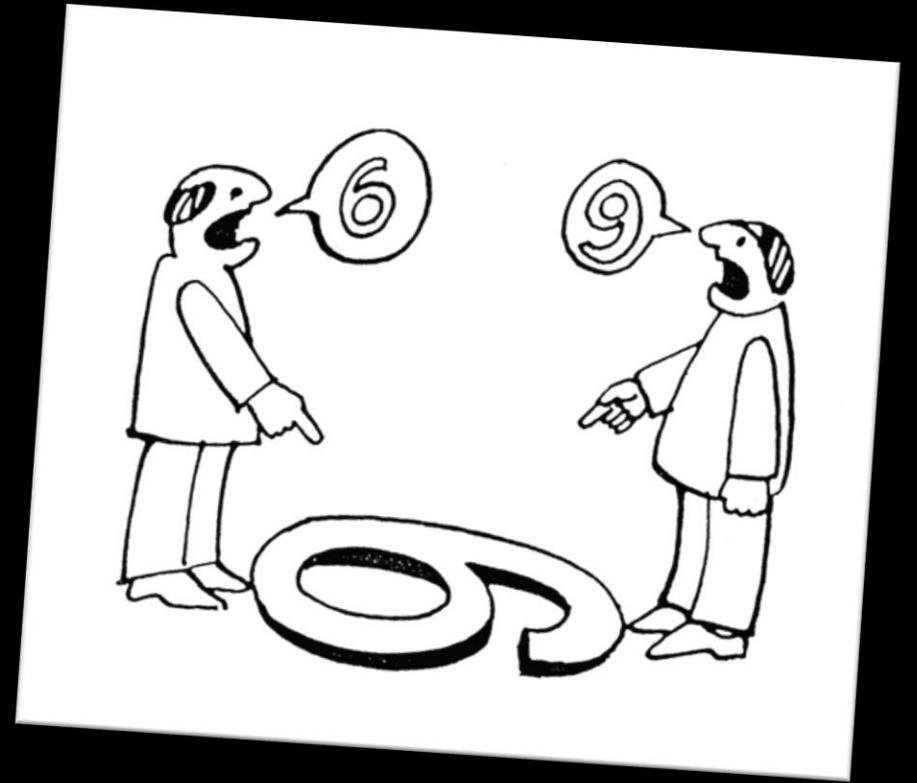
² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For **Christ** did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to **live in such harmony with one another**, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that **together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I WELCOME YOU

Romans 15:7 (CEV)

⁷ Honor God by accepting each other, as Christ has accepted you.

Inspired by the example of God himself, we are to welcome one another, even and especially when we disagree.



UNITED IN CHRIST

Romans 15:8-13

⁸I tell you that Christ came as a servant of the **Jews** to show that God has kept the promises he made to their famous ancestors. Christ also came, ⁹so that the **Gentiles** would praise God for being kind to them. It is just as the Scriptures say... [3 OT quotes] ...¹³I pray that God, who gives hope, will bless you with complete happiness and peace because of your faith. And may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.



DIFFERENT BUT UNITED

Romans 15 reminds us that we can be united in Jesus Christ, even when our convictions about nonessentials differ.

What we have in common is much greater than what we don't.



PROTECT OUR UNITY

The harmony among us is so important, that Paul adds this serious warning in ch. 16.

Romans 16:17-19

¹⁷ My friends, I beg you to watch out for anyone who causes **trouble and divides the church** by refusing to do what all of you were taught. **Stay away from them!** ¹⁸ They want to serve themselves and not Christ the Lord. Their flattery and fancy talk fool people who don't know any better. ¹⁹ I am glad that everyone knows how well you obey the Lord. But still, I want you to understand what is good and not have anything to do with evil.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Just as Christ unites us to God,
and just as Christ unites Jews
and Gentiles, our differences do
not have to divide us.

If our commitment to Jesus
Christ is sincere, our differences
don't have to divide us. Instead,
they are an opportunity to
display the strength of our faith!

