

In-House Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 PM

“RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER WITH UNDERSTANDING” ROMANS CHAPTER 14

June 10, 2026

A major theme of the New Testament is that of sin's power to destroy the spiritual and moral health of the church as well as of the individuals who commit the sins. The epistles are filled with commands and injunctions regarding the need to continually eradicate sin in the church. That is the purpose of both church discipline and self-discipline. Regular celebration of the Lord's Supper not only helps us remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf but is a time for each Christian to "examine himself" (1 Corinthians 11:28), to take stock of his life and to confess, renounce, and ask forgiveness for his sin.

Jesus commanded, "If your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer" (Matthew 18:15-17).

Paul gave similar counsel to the church at Corinth regarding self-discipline: "Clean out the old leaven [of sin], that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:7-8). In his second letter to that church he pled, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

But outright sin is not the only danger to a church's spiritual health and unity. Although they are not sin in themselves, certain attitudes and behavior can destroy fellowship and fruitfulness and have crippled the work, the witness, and the unity of countless congregations throughout church history. These problems are caused by differences between Christians over matters that are neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture. They are matters of personal preference and historic tradition, which, when imposed on others, inevitably cause confusion, strife, ill will, abused consciences, and disharmony.

Chapter 14 of Paul's letter to the church at Rome teaches many important points for spiritual living such as:

Avoiding Judgment - As believers, we are called to refrain from judging others, recognizing that each person is accountable to God alone.

Recognizing God's Authority - Understanding that God is the ultimate authority and judge helps us to focus on our own walk with Him rather than critiquing others.

Encouragement in Faith - The assurance that the Lord is able to make us stand should encourage us to trust in His power and grace in our lives.

Unity in Diversity - In a diverse body of believers, we should strive for unity by respecting different practices and convictions, knowing that God is at work in each person.

Personal Accountability - Each believer is responsible for their own relationship with God, and should focus on living faithfully according to His guidance.

Freedom in Christ - Christians have freedom in Christ, but this freedom should be exercised with consideration for others and in a way that glorifies God.

Interconnectedness of Believers - As Christians, our lives are intertwined with one another and with Christ. We are called to live in community, supporting and edifying each other.

Living for God's Glory - Our actions and decisions should reflect our commitment to God, recognizing that our lives are not our own but are meant to glorify Him.

Responsibility to the Body of Christ - We have a responsibility to consider how our choices impact fellow believers, promoting unity and love within the church.

Eternal Perspective - Understanding that our lives and deaths are part of God's eternal plan encourages us to live with purpose and hope, knowing that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

Selflessness in Christian Living - Embracing a selfless attitude, we should seek to serve others and prioritize the needs of the community over personal preferences.

Reflecting Christ's Love - Our pursuit of peace and edification should reflect the love of Christ, who is our ultimate example of selfless love and unity.

Self-Examination - Instead of focusing on others' faults, Christians should examine their own lives and seek personal growth in holiness.

Living with Purpose

Our lives are to be lived with the purpose of glorifying God. Every action and decision should reflect our commitment to Him.

Eternal Perspective

Keeping an eternal perspective helps us navigate the challenges of life, knowing that our ultimate destiny is with the Lord.

Encouragement and Edification - The church should be a place of encouragement, where believers build each other up rather than tear each other down.

Mindful of Others

Our actions should be considerate of others' spiritual well-being, avoiding behaviors that might lead them into sin or confusion.

Personal Responsibility

Each believer is responsible for their actions and attitudes, ensuring they do not become a stumbling block to others.

Love as the Guiding Principle

Love should guide our interactions, prioritizing the spiritual growth and encouragement of our fellow believers.

Pursue Peace

As believers, we are called to actively seek peace in our relationships, both within the church and in the broader community. This involves a conscious effort to avoid conflict and promote harmony.