

Romans 14:1-12

The Common English Bible

1 Welcome the person who is weak in faith - but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. **2** One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. **4** Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). **5** One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. **6** Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. **7** We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. **8** If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. **9** This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. **10** But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. **11** Because it is written, *As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.* **12** So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-13

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8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love.

9 **God won't always play the judge; he won't be angry forever.**

10 He doesn't deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing, **11** because as high as heaven is above the earth, that's how large God's faithful love is for those who honor him.

12 **As far as east is from west - that's how far God has removed our sin from us.**

13 Like a parent feels compassion for their children...

that's how the Lord feels compassion for those who honor him.

Matthew 18:21-35

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²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “LORD, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”