

Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Mark Your Observations

Record Observations & Questions

Romans 14:1-12

Repeated
Alike
Different
Accentuated
Related
Think Context!

- 1 As for the one who is weak in faith,
welcome him,
but not to quarrel over opinions.
- 2 One person believes he may eat anything,
while the weak person eats only vegetables.
- 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains,
and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats,
for God has welcomed him.
- 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?
It is before his own master that he stands or falls.
And he will be upheld,
for the Lord is able to make him stand.
- 5 One person esteems one day as better than another,
while another esteems all days alike.
Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
- 6 The one who observes the day,
observes it in honor of the Lord.
The one who eats,
eats in honor of the Lord,
since he gives thanks to God,
while the one who abstains,
abstains in honor of the Lord
and gives thanks to God.
- 7 For none of us lives to himself,
and none of us dies to himself.
- 8 For if we live,
we live to the Lord,
and if we die,
we die to the Lord.
- So then,
whether we live
or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.
- 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again,
that he might be Lord
both of the dead and of the living.
- 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother?
Or you, why do you despise your brother?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;
- 11 for it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."
- 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. (ESV)

Review

Love one another and the things that are good, hate what is evil. But in the midst of evil, seek to live at peace with all, not retaliating evil for evil, bless and minister to those who are against you. Submit to governing authorities who have been given authority by God. Seek to fulfill the Law by loving neighbors and doing good and living right (righteously).



Think about it



Talk about it

Introduction

What are issues (categories) that cause conflict?

Romans 14:1-3

“Opinions”

“Weak in their faith”

Principles

Weak don't judge

Strong don't regard with contempt

There are disputable matters, but they should not cause division, disregard or disapproval in the Body.

Romans 14:4-9

Does Paul prohibit discernment?

Does being “fully convinced” equal being right?

Principles

Be fully convinced you are doing the right things

Do all to the Lord's honor

Romans 14:10-11

Principles

Remember—the only judge that counts is God because we will have to give account before Him

Key Points

Principle: Accept each other, differences and all, in Christ.

Whatever we do—do it as to the Lord

Out of love and humility, we should seek the greater good of others to the glory of God

Areas of Decision—Use these categories to help you evaluate your own “opinions”

1. **Absolutes**—Areas in which there is biblically clear teaching on which you are not willing to make any compromise: firm convictions (for which you are willing to pay a price)

Our goal when it comes to absolutes—unity.

2. **Conviction**—Beliefs based on interpretation of the Bible in areas that are not fundamental to salvation nor part of the essence of orthodoxy.

Our goal when it comes to convictions—love.

3. **Preferences**—Areas of desire (strong) but where you are willing to compromise if persuaded and if needed, for unity.

Our goal when it comes to preferences or traditions—openness.

4. **Opinions**—Issues that are not clear cut or black and white, but in which you have developed an option based on personality and backgrounds. Things you like but could live without.

Our goal when it comes to opinions—acceptance of the individual.

Our tendency is to move our “beliefs” one step up the ladder. Our opinions become preferences. Our preferences become convictions. Our convictions become absolutes. This results in more intense conflict. Our list of absolutes becomes too long, our convictions too passionate and our preferences cause division.



Act on it

How gracious are you towards those who are different or disagree?

Would people say that you “breathe out grace” over differences and in the midst of disagreement?

Do you give people the benefit of the doubt? Do you assume the best or the worst of people?

Do you assign motives to people's actions and then judge them by the motives you perceive?

Can you overlook people's differences—dress, look, taste in music, etc? Do you seek them out?

Can you/do you praise God for the diversity in the Body of Christ at Calvary Church?