

“Live the right life when we disagree”**Romans 14:1-23**

It's our obedient response to God's mercy (Romans 12;1,2)

Make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification

Verse 19.

Understand...

- “Strong” or “weak” in faith is a matter of perception and persuasion.
- Paul's use of the word 'faith' is the same throughout the letter. It's saving faith a gift from God meant to reassure and promote unity.
- As we mature as Christians we will observe beliefs and behaviours in each other, “disputable matters”, that question the power and efficacy of our faith.
- Be careful, the temptation will be to think of oneself more right with God than another or less.

Accept the one whose faith is weak without quarrelling over disputable matters.

- Like you they are saved by faith and belong to God.
- Like you they are accountable to God not you or you to them.
- Like you they are fully persuaded in what they believe.
- Like you they need to be loved.

Stop passing judgement on one another.**Be fully persuaded and convinced in what you believe.****But if it distresses or discourages another Christian don't do it.**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

A Bible Study – Romans 14:1-23**16**

Chapters 1 to 11 have been about how God has made us right with himself through Christ. Chapters 12 to 16 are now about how to live as people who have been made right with God. They are a call to appropriate thinking and behaviour that is Christlike, sacrificial; our response to God's mercy (Romans 12:1,2). In this Bible Study we consider what is the right way for Christians to think and behave when we disagree?

Open with a prayer asking God to teach you from His word:**An introduction and explanation, open for discussion or clarification:**

The “faith” that is mentioned here is the same word Paul uses throughout the whole of Romans. It's saving faith, that is a gift from God, to believe and trust in the person and work of Christ to make us right with God. Having it, we are justified before God (Romans 5:1,2 and 10:9-13). To call faith “weak” or “strong” doesn't mean it is any less or more powerful and efficacious to save but merely a description of our perceived belief of our self or that of another in faith's power and efficacy to save. Whether described as weak or strong our “faith” saves. It is also the same “faith” that has been equally given to all Christians. Its use is to remind us to always work humbly towards our oneness, equality and unity in the Lord and in his service. To do otherwise is to sin (Romans 12:3-8 and 14:22,23).

Read: Romans 14:1-23.

Questions:

1. Verse 19 is the reason for Chapter 14. Read it again. In all matters what is the Church obligated to do in regards to its relationship with one another?
2. What were the disputable matters in the Church in Rome Paul uses as an example? (See verses 2 and 5a)
3. What matters do Christians disagree about today?
4. When we disagree over disputable matters what are we to do?
Why?
5. In the 1924 Olympics Eric Liddell refused to run a qualifying race on a Sunday, even though failure to qualify would eliminate him from competition. He believed that to run on a Sunday would break the commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” (Ex 20:8). Do you think his decision was right or wrong or neither? Explain.

Close with prayer.

In preparation for the next Bible Study read ahead Romans 15:1-13

This Bible Study is such that it can be done on one's own or with others in a Bible Study Group - even around the table at home. It's designed to help you to remember the sermon, grow in your knowledge and love of God, appreciate your fellowship with other believers and to take your part in the life of the Church as followers of Jesus Christ - Trevor Young – Senior Minister Abbotsford Anglican