



# ROMANS

Romans-29—May 11, 2022

“DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT DIVIDE”

Romans 14:1-23

## HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:

1. **Understand** that there are **differences**.

- a. Romans 14:1-3 *Accept the person whose faith is weak. Don't argue with them where you have differences of opinion. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything. But another person eats only vegetables because their faith is weak. 3 The person who eats everything must not look down on the one who does not. And the one who doesn't eat everything must not judge the person who does. That's because God has accepted them.*
- b. Don't pass **judgment** on **arguable** matters.
- c. Don't look down on people who have **different convictions**.
- d. **Accept** other people because God has **accepted** them.

## HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:

2. What **qualifies** me to **judge** someone?

- a. Romans 14:4 *Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.*

- b. The Lord is able to make a **person stand**.

#### HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:

- 3. Our **deal** is to **respect** others.

- a. Romans 14:5-6 *One person considers one day to be more holy than another. Another person thinks all days are the same. Each of them should be absolutely sure in their own mind. 6 Whoever thinks that one day is special does so to honor the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to honor the Lord. They give thanks to God. And whoever doesn't eat meat does so to honor the Lord. They also give thanks to God.*
- b. Colossians 2:16 *So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.*
- c. Christians should be fully **convinced** about any conviction.
- d. **Personal convictions** are just that.

#### HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:

- 4. I must take **responsibility** for my own **life**.

- a. Romans 14:7-12 *We don't live for ourselves only. And we don't die for ourselves only. 8 If we live, we live to honor the Lord. If we die, we die to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and came back to life. He did this to become the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 Now then, who are you to judge your brother or sister? Why do you act like you're better than they are? We will all stand in God's courtroom to be judged. 11 It is written, " 'You can be sure that I live,' says the Lord. 'And you can be just as sure that everyone will kneel down in front of me. Every tongue will have to tell the truth about God.' " (Isaiah 45:23) 12 So we will all have to explain to God the things we have done.*
- b. We are responsible **to** other people, but we are not responsible **for** other people.
- c. We are **accountable** to God.
- d. Matthew 7:1-2 (Jesus said) *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

#### HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:

- 5. I must act in **love** to **enhance** and **encourage** others.

- a. Romans 14:13-15 *Let us stop judging one another. Instead, decide not to put anything in the way of a brother or sister. Don't put anything in their way that would make them trip and fall. 14 I am absolutely sure that nothing is "unclean" in itself. The Lord Jesus has convinced me of this. But someone*

*may consider a thing to be “unclean.” If they do, it is “unclean” for them. 15 Your brother or sister may be upset by what you eat. If they are, you are no longer acting as though you love them. So don’t destroy them by what you eat. Remember that Christ died for them.*

- b. 1 Corinthians 14:26 *...let everything be done for the strengthening of the church.*
- c. Don’t put **obstacles** in someone else’s **way**.
- d. 1 Corinthians 9:19 *Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.*

#### **HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:**

- 6. Each one must do their part to **keep** the **peace**.
  - a. Romans 14:16-21 *So suppose you know something is good. Then don’t let it be spoken of as if it were evil. 17 God’s kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. 18 Those who serve Christ in this way are pleasing to God. They are pleasing to people too. 19 So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. 20 Don’t destroy the work of God because of food. All food is “clean.” But it’s wrong to eat anything that might cause problems for someone else’s faith. 21 Don’t eat meat if it causes your brother or sister to sin. Don’t drink wine or do anything else that will make them sin.*
  - b. Matthew 23:24 (Jesus said) *You [spiritually] blind guides, who strain out a gnat [consuming yourselves with miniscule matters] and swallow a camel [ignoring and violating God's precepts]!*
  - c. Pushing our **agenda destroys** the word of God.

#### **HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES:**

- 7. **Trust** God and let Him **guide** you in all things.
  - a. Romans 14:22-23 *Whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the person who doesn’t feel guilty for what they do. 23 But whoever has doubts about what they eat is guilty if they eat. That’s because their eating is not based on faith. Everything that is not based on faith is sin.*