

ROMANS

SEEING WHAT IS RIGHT • THROUGH GOD'S EYES

Good Relationships & Controversies
Romans 14

Good Relationships in the middle of Controversies?

Six things that divide people, even, Christian people

- 1. Homosexuality, Trans Gender and the church?**
- 2. Universalism, are your neighbours & relatives going to hell?**
- 3. Politics, Sex Ed, Immigration, Donald Trump**
- 4. Evolution, is everything we see billions and billions of years old?**
- 5. Women in ministry, is egalitarianism the best or the only way forward?**
- 6. The internet, angry blogs & podcasts, posting outrageous stuff!**



“1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 2 One man’s faith allows him to **eat everything**, but another man, whose faith is weak, **eats only vegetables**. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Red: the issues

Black underline: Biblical teaching

Blue underline: What God has done or is doing

5 One man considers **one day more sacred** than another; another man considers **every day alike**. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **11** It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" **12** So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **13** Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in your brother's way.

14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. **15** If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. **16** Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. *(to do so would create a stumbling block or obstacle)*

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **20** Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. **21** It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. **23** But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.” (Ro 14:1-23 NIV)

Primary Principles

- 1. Don't judge those God has accepted. Vs 1-4**
- 2. We all belong to the Lord who died and rose for us. Vs 5-9**
- 3. We will all have to give an account of ourselves to God vs 10-12**
- 4. Don't stumble or distress your brother/sister vs 14-16**
- 5. The kingdom of heaven is not aboutbut about.... Vs 17-18**
- 6. Make every effort to do what leads to peace vs 19-21**
- 7. Keep your private convictions between you and God vs 22-23**

What should I be:

Willing to die for?

Willing to suffer for?

Willing to bear with?

Willing to divide over?

Some Biblical truths are greater than others

- 1. I desire mercy, not sacrifice Hosea 6:6**
- 2. ...honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far... Matthew 15:8**
- 3. The greatest command? Matthew 22:34-40**
- 4. You neglect the more important matters of the law Matthew 23:23**
- 5. The kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking but righteousness, peace and joy Romans 14:17**

People of Conviction

1. **The heart or the mission of God, willing to die for**
 1. **Primary truths of God, willing to take a stand, or suffer for**
 2. **The unity of the people of God, always willing to suffer for**
2. **Significant matters over which we to agree to disagree to preserve the unity of the bond of Christ**
3. **Disagreement over matters, so significant, I would separate from other believing brothers and sisters**
4. **Disagreements so severe, I would consider those who hold the objectionable views to be outside of Christ**
5. **Disagreements about things that should never divide believing brothers and sisters are the subject of Romans 14**

**For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter,
though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.**

Ecclesiastes 8:6 NIV

**God hates it when we stir up strife or contention
among his people.**

**It may happen in the church, but don't you be a part of it.
Don't you do it.**

**Pray, ask the Lord to make you a peacemaker, and ask
the Lord to show you how you can bring patience,
understanding and wisdom to every situation.**

Adapted from Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Good Relationships & Controversies

1st Century Controversies

- 1. Eat Anything?
or Vegetables Only?**
- 2. Holy Days?
Which Ones?**

What are Similar 21st Century Controversies?

- 1. Clothing? Hair? Music?
Being In Style?**
- 2. Music & Worship Styles?**
- 3. Roles of Men & Women?**
- 4. Homosexuality? Trans?**
- 5. Divorce & Remarriage?**