

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service: Bible Study

Topic: Living out the Gospel
Text: Romans 14 & 15: 1-13

Date: April 20, 2022
Teacher: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Paul in this section of his writing to the believers in Rome, admonished them to live in peace and unity amongst each other. The church in Rome was a diverse church with people of different culture, ethnicity, religious background, etc. Paul encouraged the believers to be accepting of each other and not allow things such as religious practices, food eaten, holidays observed and other minor things to divide them. Paul emphasized the need to avoid criticism, judgement but rather to be accommodating towards one another so everyone can remain and grow in their faith.

Objectives:

- Identify disputable issues that the believers in Roman Church had to deal with
- Identify disputable issues facing believers in our days
- Understand the negative impact of criticism amongst believers
- How to manage differences of opinion amongst believers in the body of Christ

1. THE DANGER OF CRITICISM– ROMANS 14:1-23

Romans 14:1- 4 *“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 2 One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.”* (NIV)

- Who are the ones weak in Faith?
- What are disputable matters?

Romans 14: 5-12 *“One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for 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 sister[a]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? 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 acknowledge God.’[b]12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.* (NIV)

- Avoid judging others over matters of conscience or personal convictions.
- Do not be an expert critic of other believers. Matthew 7:1
- Remember we will be judge by God both the weak and strong, strict and free spirited. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Romans 14: 13 – 18 *“Therefore, let us no longer criticize one another. Instead decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall in your brother’s way. 14 (I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. Still, to someone who considers a thing to be unclean, to that one it is unclean) 15 For if your brother is hurt by what you eat, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy that one Christ died for by what you eat. 16 Therefore, do not let your good be slandered, 17*

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and approved by men.” (HCSB)

- How can a Christian be a stumbling block to another believer?
- How are we to walk in love in the context of Romans 14:15?
- Our life in Christ is a life of freedom, however this is not a license to sin or to be a stumbling block to others. Romans 6:1-2

2. BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER – ROMANS 15:1-13

Romans 15:1-4 “We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3 For even Christ didn’t live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.” 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” (NLT)

- Believers must be committed to building up and helping each other grow in faith
- We must be outward focused in our approach to kingdom matters, not inward focus. Philippians 2:3-4
- We must follow Christ’s example; he did seek to please himself but rather God. Philippians 2:5-11
- We must be focused on bringing more souls to the Kingdom. Matthew 28:19-20

Romans 15: 5-6 “May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NLT)

- We are called to be peacemakers both within the church walls and outside. **Matthew 5:19** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
- Our life of unity and harmony is something we must make every effort to attain. **Ephesians 4:3** “Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.”

Romans 15:7- 13

Unity in the body is very important, Christ died for all both the Jews and Gentiles. God has always had us in His plan of redemption many scriptures spoke of this and Paul referenced a few of them in Romans 15:7-12.

Psalm 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117: 1 and Isaiah 11:10

Conclusion

- Make your decisions by faith with an eye to honor Christ in all and above all else.
- Be as generous with others, as you want them and God to be with you.
- Your freedom in Christ is secondary to your fellow Christians’ wellbeing.
- The mature should relinquish personal freedom for the sake of the weak.
- The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating or drinking but it is righteousness, peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17