

Chapter 14

v.1 Receive the weaker brothers but not for the purpose of trying to change him to your way of teaching

Note: This passage refers to those things that are outward trappings that have no bearing really on our salvation. This does not refer to core doctrinal issues.

- Jesus contends with the Pharisees numerous times over their teachings and examples.

- Acts 11- Peter contends with those in Jerusalem over acceptance of Gentiles

- Acts 15- Jerusalem council meets over doctrinal issues concerning Gentiles

- 1 Timothy 5- tells us to publicly rebuke sinning, unrepentant elders

- I Corinthians 5 tells us to put wicked out of the church

- Jude tells us to contend for the faith

v.2 This refers to someone so fearful of eating meat sacrificed to idols that they eat only vegetables

v.3 Eating or not eating something for spiritual reasons is not an issue , we need to respond to what God has put in our hearts

- It refers to the strong in faith despising or holding in contempt the weaker brother, and the weaker brother judging those who don't adhere to his self-imposed standards.

- for instance, dress code, music style, ministry style, what type of ministry we should be doing (taking in homeless, street witnessing, etc.)

v.4 Again we are not to judge someone's heart in these areas, this does not refer to moral issues where we are called to rebuke, exhort, lift up and help one another. If someone is in sin, it needs to be addressed when opportunity permits

v.5-6 Which day to worship God, Sunday or Sabbath (Saturday)?

v.6-11 It is the Lord Who is in charge of each of us, let Him deal with us

v.12 We must give an account of our lives, that is an awesome enough thought without dealing with everyone else's lives.

v.13 How can we put up stumbling block or cause brother to fall ?

- flaunting our liberty in alcohol, dress, movies, etc.

- if we know that someone expects certain behavior, behave that way, wear a

tie if they expect it, eat with your hands if they expect it, sing hymns if they expect it, don't do anything that would cause someone to stumble

v.14-17 Remember 13:8- owe no man anything but love, - do those things that will let someone know you love them, don't stumble them, don't argue about non-essential things

v.19 Pursue the things that make for peace and edify one another- This does not mean form alliances with those in doctrinal error but lift up Jesus, talk about Him, fellowship about Him

v.20-23 realize that if we have liberty in an area it is because God has given us faith to have that liberty, don't try to convince someone else to walk in a liberty they don't have in their hearts. If in doubt, don't do it.-**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

Romans 15

v.1-2 The strong should make concession for the weak, do what makes them comfortable not what we are free to do. If you have someone over who has a problem with TV, don't turn it on. If someone feels they shouldn't have alcohol, don't serve it. If someone feels that you should wear a dress or coat and tie to church, wear it when you go to church with them.

v.3 Do as Jesus did and we can't go wrong.

v.4 The Scriptures are our guide, let the Word have its effect, it is the teaching of the Word that makes a difference.

v.5-6 May God grant you- it is a gift to be received not something to strive for.
- what is that mind set of Jesus?

- Philippians 2:2:1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and

coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He

humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

v.7 Therefore- because of what He has done for us

- receive (**literally grace**) as He received us- 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- our acceptance was based on what Jesus did, our acceptance of the brethren is based upon what Jesus did as well

- Jesus did not wait for us to pursue Him first, but He pursued us even when we were not interested.

v.8 Now I say- could be translated because

- Jesus became a servant (deacon) - one who ministered to their needs in very real ways.

- He was the One Who served the circumcision or the law so that the promises might be confirmed, assured, made effective

- What are those promises ?

- deliverance, salvation

- John 10:10I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- **Romans wasn't written just so we could have the correct theology but that we might enter into a relationship with God the Father.**

v.9 God's mercy- this is the core of His very nature

v.9-12 All these passages speak of God using what is going on with Israel to minister and draw the Gentiles as well as the Jews into a loving relationship with Him.

v.13 **God of hope- the thing that separates our God from all else, is the overwhelming hope and expectancy of life that only He can give.**

- fill - 4137. Pleroo to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or (fig.) , fully preach, perfect,

- joy and peace in believing- joy and peace come by believing; belief or faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.(Romans 10:17)

- abound- more than needed

- Power of the Holy Spirit- How do we get this power ? The Word, prayer, ministry, walking holy.