

Learning to accept others

Romans 14:1-12

Chris Mueller

Clarifying the issues

1st God is very concerned about Unity

John 17:23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2nd God isn't very concerned about disputable matters

3rd What areas were the Romans struggling with?

Diet, drink and days

4th What area's do today's believers struggle with?

#1 _____ each other

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Philemon 1:17 accept him as you would me.

Compare

Control

Condemn

#2 How can I accept others who _____ with me? 1-4

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. *2* One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. *3* The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. *4* Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

1st By not judging their motives

2nd By not labeling them

1 Timothy 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;

Acts 10:15 What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.

Romans 14:17 the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

3rd By not trying to change others

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy

#3 _____ am I to accept those who disagree with me?

1st Because God has already ACCEPTED other Christians 3

3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Romans 15:7 *Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*

2nd Because Christians are RESPONSIBLE to Christ, not me 4

4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

3rd Because I don't know other Christian's MOTIVES 5-6

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16 *let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day*

6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

4th Because Christians are RELATED to each other in Christ 7

7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

Romans 12:5 *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

Our relationships with one another are more important than our lifestyle

5th Because Christians are the POSSESSION of Christ 8-9

Romans 14:8 *for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

Titus 2:14 *gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

Jude 1:4 *For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

6th Because I am only accountable for MYSELF in disputable matters 10-12

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad*

TAKE HOME:

A= _____ every Christian to live by the truth of the Bible
_____ every Christian on issues not addressed in the Bible

B= _____ unity, since it is crucial to Christ
Colossians 3:14 *And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity*

C= _____ where you need to grow

D=Make a practice of being _____

E=Keep focused on your internal _____ not external choices