

## WHY AM I TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH ME?

### Romans 14:1-13 Part ?

Jeff Wall 10-17-10

Paul shows how to maintain unity in the church by learning to "agree to disagree agreeably" and accepting each other in love.

Romans 14:1 "**Accept** him whose faith is weak **without passing judgment** on disputable matters."

#### I. "DISPUTABLE MATTERS": THEN AND NOW

**Definition:** When there's not a choice between right or wrong when it's a matter of personal preference, when it's neither commanded nor prohibited.

**Then:** issues of DAYS DIET and DRINK.

**Now:** dancing, playing cards, go to movies, watch TV, driving cars, using electricity, makeup. Every Christian has his list of do's and don'ts.

#### II. THE SOLUTION: ACCEPT (vs. 1) "Accept..."

#### III. WHY AM I TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH ME?

1. **Because God has already accepted them.** "The man who eats everything must not look down upon him who does not. And the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does for God has accepted him." (vs. 3)

2. **Because it's not my responsibility to judge.** "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls." (vs. 4)

3. **Because I don't know they're motives.**  
"One man considers one day more sacred than the other. Another considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special does so as to the Lord. And 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." (vs. 5-6)

*I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Cor. 4:3-5 NIV*

4. **Because we're related to each other.** "For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone." (vs.7)

*"...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us... Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Rom 12:5;10-11NIV*

5. **Because only Christ has the right to judge.** "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. For this very reason Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." (vs. 8-9)

**6. Because I'm only accountable for myself.**

*"You then, why do you judge your brother? Why do you look upon your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written 'As surely as I live, says the Lord, 'Every knee will bow before Me. Every tongue will confess to God.' So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another." (vs. 10-12)*

One day Peter was talking to Jesus and Jesus foretold that Peter would die a martyr's death. Peter turns around and says, *"What about him, Lord?"* talking about John. Jesus said, *It's none of your business. Each of us lives unto the Lord and dies unto the Lord.* John 21:20-22

Paul is saying that one of the real keys of unity in the church is to agree to disagree agreeably.

**Conclusion:** Rom 14:13-14

*"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." NIV vs. 13*