

# Going Deeper

## Sermon Study Guide

Series: Gospel Behavior – Part 6

### “Principles Needed to Get Along”

Text: Romans 14:1-13

Scripture Text: ROMANS 14:1-13 NKJV

Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. <sup>2</sup>For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; <sup>[a]</sup>and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died <sup>[b]</sup>and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of <sup>[c]</sup>Christ. <sup>11</sup>For it is written:

“As I live, says the LORD,  
Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us not judge one another <sup>[d]</sup>anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother’s way.

Sermon text and audio are available at

[https://bvcob.com/sermon\\_post/](https://bvcob.com/sermon_post/).

How do believers in Jesus GET ALONG in areas where they don’t agree?

The principles in Romans 14 are most useful for NON-ESSENTIAL teachings or doctrines.

➤ *Romans 14:1-4*

1. The RELATIONSHIP is more important than the RULE.

- Though I might strongly DISAGREE with you I should not ever DESPISE you.

➤ *Romans 14:5-9*

2. Live by your CONVICTIONS.

- The emphasis is between the INDIVIDUAL and GOD.
- Everything we do is an act of WORSHIP.
- UNCERTAINTY should lead us to seek a more CERTAIN conviction or direction from the Lord.

➤ *Romans 14:10-13*

3. God will SORT it out in the END.

- Do I TRUST God to make it all right?

4. Let LOVE be your LAW.

Sermon preached by Pastor Eric Reamer on 10/20/19  
Study Guide prepared by Pastor Donita Keister

## Study

Open with prayer and then read Romans 14:1-13.

1. Paul's writings in this text reveal that there are "gray areas"—issues over which equally committed Christians disagree. According to this scripture, what kinds of "gray areas" led to disagreements in the early church?

In our day, what are the "gray areas" that have caused conflict in the church?

2. What essential teachings about Christ do we find clues of in this text providing the center of belief needed for the community of faith in order for us to stay bound together even as we disagree about nonessential matters?

3. In verses 5-9 Paul outlines a criteria by which to evaluate when diversity of practice in "gray areas" can be embraced by the church body:

- Personal conviction (vs 5) – *Am I fully convinced that God is blessing this practice?*
- Honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ (vs 6) – *In every aspect of the carrying out of this practice in the life of the church, is Christ honored and thanksgiving being given to God?*
- Living in the Lord (vs 7, 8) – *Is the full motive for this practice to please the Lord?*
- Recognizing Jesus Christ is Lord of all life...and ultimate judge of all (vs 9) – *Will this practice stand as noble and holy in all its aspects at the judgment seat of Christ?*

With these four criteria in mind:

- a) When have you had a life practice that others in the church disagreed with, or when have you disagreed with someone else about their practice? How did people treat one another in light of the difference? How could it have been different if love were the law?
  - b) How have you seen Christ honored in the midst of disagreements in the body of Christ? Dishonored?
  - c) What does it mean to you to "live in the Lord"?
  - d) What conflict are you in the midst of now, church or other, that will appear silly or irrelevant at the judgement seat of Christ?
4. What kinds of attitudes are we called to avoid, as we face a variety of convictions on nonessential teachings in the church?
  5. What attitudes are we to have toward others in order for there to be peace within the church around these "gray areas"?

CLOSE YOUR TIME WITH PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER.