

Do Not Judge One Another - Romans 14:1–23 – Sermon Guide

Purpose

To become a Christ-centered community that stops judging over disputable matters, refuses to place obstacles in one another's way, and receives one another under the Lordship of Jesus.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you disagreed with another Christian over a matter of preference, practice, or conscience. What helped or hurt the relationship?

Scripture Focus

Romans 14:1–23 – Read Aloud / Additional: James 4:11–12; 1 Corinthians 6:1–8

Observations from the Text

Paul writes to a church divided over “disputable matters”—issues of conscience, practice, preference, and conviction where faithful believers may differ while still seeking to honor the Lord. In Rome, the issues included food and special days. One believer had freedom to eat anything, while another believed faithfulness meant eating only vegetables. One person regarded a day as special; another regarded every day alike.

Paul gives several commands:

- Accept one another without quarreling.
- Stop treating one another with contempt or condemnation.
- Do not place stumbling blocks in another believer's way.
- Pursue peace and mutual edification.
- Remember that each brother or sister belongs to the Lord.

The theological center is this: **“God has accepted them.”** The person we are tempted to dismiss is someone God has received.

Core Teaching Connection

Romans 14 does not mean we should never discern, confront sin, or make wise moral judgments. Scripture still calls the church to address sin, injustice, and broken relationships with wisdom and courage.

But Romans 14 warns against judgment that divides the body over disputable matters. Sinful judgment separates rather than serves. It creates camps, suspicion, contempt, and condemnation.

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Paul shifts the question from, “Am I right?” to, “Am I helping my brother or sister stand before Christ?” Even when we are right about an issue, we can be wrong in how we treat people. The person on the other side is someone for whom Christ died.

Group Discussion

1. What is the difference between a disputable matter and a matter of clear sin or biblical faithfulness?
2. Why do Christians often turn disputable matters into dividing matters?
3. Paul names two dangers: contempt and condemnation. Which one are you more prone toward?
4. How might personal preference become private judgment?
5. Where do we need to pursue peace without pretending every issue is unimportant?

Dig Deeper

1. Read Romans 14:3–4. How does “God has accepted them” reshape the way we view others?
2. Read Romans 14:13–19. What obstacles might we place in another believer’s way?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1–8. How can the church practice wise judgment without becoming judgmental?

Personal Reflection

Take two quiet minutes before God:

- Where have I treated my preference as law?
- Where have I assumed the worst about someone?
- Where have I practiced self-rule rather than asking, “Jesus, what do You want?”
- Is there someone I need to receive, honor, or approach with humility?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You died and rose again to be Lord. Forgive us for practicing self-rule while confessing Your Lordship. Teach us to receive those You have accepted. Free us from contempt, condemnation, suspicion, and pride. Help us pursue peace and mutual edification.

Make us a church where disputable matters are handled with humility, real sin is addressed with wisdom, and every brother and sister is valued as one who belongs to You.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.