



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of June 11, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- **Think about a conflict you've experienced. What did/would it take to resolve that conflict?**

Romans 14:1-23

Strong & Weak

In Romans 1-11, Paul proclaimed the Gospel: We are just in God's sight by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. We are sinful, yet declared righteous and in His sight. If we understand the Gospel (Romans 1-5) and experience the Gospel (Romans 6-8), the result will be a life of love. Beginning in Romans 12, Paul describes this life of love which transforms relationships with self, other Christians, and the world, friends and enemies. Now, in Romans 14, Paul applies all he has been teaching to a very specific problem in the Roman church: The relationship between weak and strong believers.

- **How do you discern whether an issue is a matter of opinion, or an essential matter of Christian faith and practice?**

eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we 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.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? 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 confess to God."

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹³ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats,

approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. ²² The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

- **What does Paul mean by a Christian who is “weak in faith” (1)? For Paul, who would be a “strong” believer?**
- **What appears to be the attitude of the strong and weak in the Roman church toward one another? Why?**
- **How can something that is not wrong in and of itself be wrong for a particular Christian?**
- **What is one way the “strong” are called to repent and trust Jesus Christ?**
- **What is one way the “weak” are called to repent and trust Jesus Christ?**
- **Consider any issue that has divided you from other Christians. How would Paul's teaching apply to it?**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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