Sermon Questions

Focus on Essentials and Show Grace in Non-Essentials
Romans 14:1–12
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- Have each person in the group share their favorite movie. Did everyone choose the same movie? Is yours the only one worth seeing? Why or why not?

GROW:

- Read Romans 14:1-12
- What issues are dividing the church?
- Read Galatians 1:6-9. How do we know Paul is dealing with a top tier issue here? How do we know that he is not addressing top tier issues in the Roman church (in the context of Rom. 14:1-12)?
- Paul speaks to both the weak and the strong: What characterizes the "weak" in the following verses: 14:1; 14:2; 14:3; 14:5; 14:10? What characterizes the "strong" in the following verses: 14:1; 14:2; 14:3; 14:4; 14:5?
- Where there is latitude to view secondary issues differently, what do these Scriptures teach us about overriding principles to follow: 14:4; 14:5; 14:6; 14:7-9; 14:10-12?

GO:

- What is Jesus's great desire for the church – see John 17:20-23 – and how is Paul echoing that in Romans 14:1-12? What is something you can do this week that will cultivate unity when there is disagreement over preferences?

Sermon Notes

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1. God's people are to welcome those who struggle with legalism with fellowship ("the weak"), but do not waste time arguing with such people over their "opinions" (Romans 14:1–2).

2. God's people must obey whenever God's Word speaks on a topic. Obedience is worship! However, in areas where the Bible is largely silent, we should avoid turning our preferences into orthodoxy. To do so is legalism (Romans 14:3–5).

3. God's people seek to glorify God in all areas, even in areas where scripture is largely silent (Romans 14:6–8, 10–12).