

June 21, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

Romans: For Today's World –Chapter 14:1-15:13

Convictions and Compassion: A Father's Balancing Act

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "Romans For Today's World" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Convictions and Compassion: A Father's Balancing Act

Introduction

Today, as we honor fathers, we turn to a passage that speaks powerfully to the challenges of leadership in a divided world. Romans 14 and 15 remind us that God calls us to live out our convictions with humility and to lead our families and communities with compassion. Fathers, your influence is profound—not just in what you believe, but in how you love, build up, and bring hope to those around you. Though this message is geared toward Fathers, the key points apply to us all.

Point 1: Hold Convictions with Humility

Romans 14:1–9

¹ Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. ² For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

³ Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for GOD has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own Master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the LORD's help, they will stand and receive HIS approval. ⁵ In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. ⁶ Those who worship the LORD on a special day do it to honor HIM. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the LORD, since they give thanks to GOD before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the LORD and give thanks to GOD. ⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it's to honor the LORD. And if we die, it's to honor the LORD. So whether we live or die, we belong to the LORD. ⁹ CHRIST died and rose again for this very purpose—to be LORD both of the living and of the dead.

Fathers, it's good to have convictions—about faith, about what's right, about how to lead your family. But Paul reminds us that these convictions must be held with humility. Not every issue is essential, and not everyone will see things the same way. The goal is not to win every argument, but to honor the Lord in all you do. Model for your children what it means to stand firm on God's truth, but also to listen, to learn, and to walk humbly with God and others.

Key Takeaway:

Standing firm in your faith means holding your convictions with humility, always seeking to honor the Lord above all.

Point 2: Practice Compassion Over Condemnation

Romans 14:10–18

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of GOD.

11 For the Scriptures say,

“As surely as I live,’ says the LORD, ‘every knee will bend to ME, and every tongue will declare allegiance to GOD.’” [Isaiah 45:23]

12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to GOD.

13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the LORD JESUS that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong.

15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom CHRIST died.

16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good.

17 For the Kingdom of GOD is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the HOLY SPIRIT.

18 If you serve CHRIST with this attitude, you will please GOD, and others will approve of you, too.

Paul asks in verse 10... ***“So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? ...***

Let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall... And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it.”

In a world quick to judge and slow to understand, compassion is a radical act. Fathers, you set the tone for your family. When disagreements arise—whether about faith, preferences, or daily life—choose compassion over condemnation. Teach your children to value people above opinions, to listen before speaking, and to love even when it's hard.

Remember, your example in moments of disagreement will shape how your family handles conflict for years to come.

Key Takeaway:

Choosing compassion over condemnation builds bridges of understanding and reflects the love of Christ in every disagreement.

Point 3: Build Up Others Through Sacrificial Love

Romans 14:19 - 15:3

¹⁹ So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. ²⁰ Don't tear apart the work of GOD over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. ²² You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and GOD. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. ²³ But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

Romans 15:1-3

¹ We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves.

² We should help others do what is right and build them up in the LORD.

³ For even CHRIST didn't live to please HIMSELF. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult YOU, O GOD, have fallen on ME." [Psalm 69:9]

We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things that we may not be. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself.

True leadership is not about asserting your rights, but about laying them down for the sake of others.

Fathers, sacrificial love means putting your family's spiritual growth ahead of your own preferences. It means asking, "Does this build up my family's faith? Does this encourage or discourage?" Christ is our model—He did not live to please Himself but gave Himself for us. Let your love be seen in your willingness to serve, to yield, and to build up those God has entrusted to you.

Key Takeaway:

True leadership is shown by building others up through sacrificial love, putting their spiritual growth ahead of your own preferences.

Point 4: Pursue Harmony and Hope

Romans 15:3-8, 13

³ *For even CHRIST didn't live to please HIMSELF. As the Scriptures say,*

“The insults of those who insult YOU, O GOD, have fallen on ME.” [Psalm 69:9]

⁴ *Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for GOD's promises to be fulfilled.*

⁵ *May GOD, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of CHRIST JESUS.*

⁶ *Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to GOD, the FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.*

⁷ *Therefore, accept each other just as CHRIST has accepted you so that GOD will be given glory.*

⁸ *Remember that CHRIST came as a servant to the Jews to show that GOD is true to the promises HE made to their ancestors.*

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¹³ *I pray that GOD, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in HIM. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power HOLY SPIRIT.*

Paul prays, in verse 5... *“May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus”*. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God... I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Fathers, you are called to be peacemakers and hope-bringers. In a world marked by division and anxiety, your pursuit of harmony in your home and community is a powerful witness. Seek unity, not uniformity—encourage your family to join together in praise, even when you don't agree on everything. And let your hope in Christ overflow, especially in times of uncertainty. When your family sees you trusting God for hope and peace, they will learn to do the same.

Key Takeaway:

Pursuing harmony and hope in your family and community allows God's joy and peace to overflow through you to others.

Final Words For Fathers & All the Church Family

Let's be the ones who hold convictions with humility—

Let's be the ones who choose compassion over condemnation—

Let's be the ones who build up, not tear down—

Let's be the ones who chase after harmony and overflow with hope.

Let's be the bridge in a world that divides,

Let's be the gentle voice in a world that shouts,

Let's be the living proof of hope in Christ in a world that doubts.

Let's be the example, the encourager, the builder, the peacemaker—

Let's be the family, the church, the people where God's love is real and God's hope is alive.

AND HERE'S THE CHALLENGE:

First, for every father—and for all of us—let's be the ones who live up to these biblical patterns.

Let's be the ones who let our homes, our lives, our church reflect the heart of Jesus.

Second, if you've never answered God's call to be your heavenly Father, if you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior—let's be the ones who say yes today.

Let's be the ones who receive forgiveness, belonging, and hope that never runs out.

Let's be the ones who let Him be the Father our hearts have always needed, and

Let's be the ones who accept Jesus as Savior & Lord and follow Him always. Amen.

REMEMBER:

Fathers (and Church Family) our balancing act—holding convictions with humility, practicing compassion, building up others through sacrificial love, and pursuing harmony and hope—reflects the Heart of Christ. May God fill us with joy, peace, and confident hope as we lead and love our families and serve our church in today's world.

Romans 14:1–15:13 (NLT)

1 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. 2 For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. 3 Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for GOD has accepted them. 4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own Master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the LORD's help, they will stand and receive HIS approval. 5 In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. 6 Those who worship the LORD on a special day do it to honor HIM. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the LORD, since they give thanks to GOD before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the LORD and give thanks to GOD. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, it's to honor the LORD. And if we die, it's to honor the LORD. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the LORD. 9 CHRIST died and rose again for this very purpose—to be LORD both of the living and of the dead.

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of GOD. 11 For the Scriptures say, “As surely as I live,” says the LORD, “every knee will bend to ME, and every tongue will declare allegiance to GOD.” [Isaiah 45:23] 12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to GOD. 13 So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. 14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the LORD JESUS that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don’t let your eating ruin someone for whom CHRIST died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. 17 For the Kingdom of GOD is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the HOLY SPIRIT. 18 If you serve CHRIST with this attitude, you will please GOD, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. 20 Don’t tear apart the work of GOD over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. 22 You may believe there’s nothing wrong with what you are doing but keep it between yourself and GOD. Blessed are those who don’t feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

Romans 15

1 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the LORD. 3 For even CHRIST didn’t live to please HIMSELF. As the Scriptures say, “*The insults of those who insult YOU, O GOD, have fallen on ME.*” [Psalm 69:9] 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for GOD’s promises to be fulfilled. 5 May GOD, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of CHRIST JESUS. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to GOD, the FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. 7 Therefore, accept each other just as CHRIST has accepted you so that GOD will be given glory. 8 Remember that CHRIST came as a servant to the Jews to show that GOD is true to the promises HE made to their ancestors. 9 He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to GOD for HIS mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: “For this, I will praise YOU among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to YOUR name.” [Psalm 18:49 / 2 Samuel 22:50] 10 And in another place it is written, “Rejoice with HIS people, you Gentiles.” [Deuteronomy 32:43] 11 And yet again, “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise HIM, all you people of the earth.” [Psalm 117:1] 12 And in another place Isaiah said, “*The heir to David’s throne will come, and HE will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on HIM.*” [Isaiah 11:10] 13 I pray that GOD, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in HIM. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT.

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