

Learning to accept others

Romans 14:1-12

Introduction:

Clarifying the issues

1st. God is very concerned about our _____

John 17:23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

Eph. 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

2nd. God isn't very concerned about _____ matters

3rd. What areas were the _____ struggling with?

4th. What areas do _____ believers struggle with?

#1. _____ each other

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Philemon 1:17 accept him as you would me.

1st - _____

2nd - _____

3rd - _____

What does it mean to be weak in faith?

#2. _____ can I accept others who disagree with me?

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

3 Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

1st - By not _____ their _____

Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

2nd - By not _____ them

1 Timothy 4:4 *For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;*
Acts 10:15 *What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.*
Rom. 14:17 *the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

3rd - By not trying to _____ others

Jude 1:24 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy*

#3. _____ am I to accept those who disagree with me?

1st - Because God already _____ other Christians

3 *Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.*

Rom. 15:7 *Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.*

2nd - Because Christians are _____ to Jesus, not me

4 *Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

3rd - Because I don't know other's _____

5 *One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind*

Col. 2:16 *let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--*

6 *He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.*

1 Sam. 16:7 *for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

4th - Because Christians are _____ to each other in Christ

7 *For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;*

Romans 12:5 *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

5th - Because Christians are the _____ of Christ

8 *for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or 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.*

Titus 2:14 *...gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

Jude 1:4 *For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ*

6th - Because I am only _____ for myself in disputable matters

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

11 For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, 12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Conclusion:

**#1- _____ all Christians to live by the truth of the Bible
_____ all Christians on issues not addressed in the Bible**

1 Cor. 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;. ...not...with the immoral people of this world, or covetous...swindlers or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

#2-Pursue _____, since it is crucial to Jesus

Col. 3:14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

#3-Begin to mature where you need to _____

If your mainly strong, you need to grow in sacrificial _____
If your mainly weak, you need to grow in _____

#4-Keep your focus on your _____ heart, not _____ choices

*Matt. 15:8 This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me
Matt. 23:27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
Jude 1:21 to ... keep yourselves in the love of God*

How?

**1st-Start _____ others how their _____ with God is
2nd-_____ with Jesus for _____ today**