

WORD

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. . . .

*¹³Therefore 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. **ROMANS 14:1,13***

Sometimes, it is too easy for us to be quick to judge other Christians based on what we see or how they live.

However, because we have different expressions of our relationship with God, we should not judge or hinder others in their faith. As members of one body, God calls us to live in unity with one another, and help build the faith of others. Here are three ways we can help those who seem to be *weak in faith*.

1 We value diversity.

*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. **ROMANS 14:3***

Valuing diversity means accepting each other despite our differences in preferences and personal convictions.

Jesus died not just for people who were “strong” in faith, but for each and every one of us. What does God’s Word encourage us to do? (Philippians 2:3,4)

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2 We fight for unity.

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **ROMANS 14:19**

As believers, we must look beyond our differences and fight for unity. This unity is relational, doctrinal, and philosophical. Though we won't always agree with one another, we choose to maintain unity and fight for keeping the relationships. What does God promise us when we live in unity? (Psalm 133:1)

3 We live in community.

⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. **ROMANS 14:7,8**

We must make it our goal to build each other up in faith—not pushing our personal agenda, but living with one another in community. We are not to isolate ourselves from others whom we think are “weak”. What must be our response in living in community with others? (Romans 15:1,2)

APPLICATION

- What did you learn from this lesson and how can you put it into practice this week?
- In what specific way can you live in unity and harmony with other believers, particularly those with “weaker” faith?
- What attitudes or mindsets do you need to get rid of, in order to accept others at their current level of faith? What steps can you take to overcome this?

PRAYER

- Intercede for unity and genuine love in your Victory group and church.
- Ask God for a greater appreciation for each person you encounter on a daily basis.
- Pray that God would use you as a man or woman who upholds relationships, as someone who considers others better than themselves (Philippians 2:4).



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