



## Part 6: Living With People Who Drive You Nuts

Since the church at Rome had believers from many different religious, cultural, and racial backgrounds, there were widely varying opinions on many lifestyle issues not clearly defined in Scripture. In this passage, Paul shows how to “disagree agreeably”...

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters” Rom 14:1

“Disputable matter”: An issue the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ on.

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 1)

### 1. Refrain from \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1-3a)

“The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does...” Rom. 14:3a

- No \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3b-4, 6-12)

•God alone \_\_\_\_\_  
“Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.” Rom. 14:3b-4

•God alone \_\_\_\_\_  
“He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.” Rom. 14:6

•God alone \_\_\_\_\_  
“You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat... Rom. 14:10,12

3. Refocus \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17-20)  
“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,” Rom. 14:17

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Rom. 14:19

4. Remove \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13-16, 20b-21)  
“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way. As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.” Rom. 14:13-15

I can \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Resist \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5, 22-23)  
“So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.” Rom. 14:22

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Rom. 15:7

### Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to take it home: Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend’s topic!

### This week’s memory verse:

“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.” Rom. 14:13

### **Monday**

Look back over the message notes. Which of these points is most difficult for you to live out when you disagree with someone else? Why?

Read Rom. 14:1-3a. Think of a time in the past when you felt that you were being judged on a disputable matter. How did it make you feel?

When was the last time you passed judgment on someone in a disputable matter? How did it impact your relationship with that person?

After hearing the sermon last weekend write down two or three “defusing” phrases for the next time you find yourself in conflict.

*Thank God today for His word, the Bible. Thank Him for His patience with you. Ask Him to give you a desire to be a unifying force in your relationships.*

### **Tuesday**

Read Romans 14:3b-4, 6-12. How many times do you see the phrase “to the Lord” or “to God” in these verses? What does that emphasis tell you about how you are to make your choices in disputable matters?

What does it tell you about how you are to treat others who have different opinions than you?

In whose life are you most tempted to “play God”? Why is that?

What truth will you use to help you resist the temptation to “play God” in disputable matters?

*Thank God today that He is in control. Ask Him to help you trust your friends and family to His care and His timing. Ask Him to give you gracious speech towards those you tend to clash with.*

### **Wednesday**

Read Romans 14:17-20. According to these verses what is important to God when it comes to our relationship with others?

Think of a relationship you have that is hurting from some type of conflict. Write down one thing that you can do today for that relationship that would lead to peace and mutual edification.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 & Prov. 21:2. According to these verses what is important to God? How can refocusing on this help you promote peace in conflicts you face?

*Ask God to give you courage to apply what you learn from Him. Ask Him to help you live a life that edifies those around you and points people to Jesus.*

### **Thursday**

Read Romans 14:13-16, 20b-21. What does verse 13 encourage you to do when you’re tempted to judge someone?

How should your concern for others impact your choices?

Reread verses 15-16. Take some time for honest evaluation today. Ask God to show you if there is an area of your life where your liberty is causing someone to stumble. Based on what you’ve learned this last week, what will your response be?

*Ask God to conform your heart to His. Ask Him to give you a desire to place the good of others above your practice of liberty. Thank Him for the opportunity to be an instrument of peace in the Body of Christ.*

### **Friday**

Read Romans 14:5, 22-23. What is a “disputable matter” that you tend to make a big deal of (be honest!)? Has it ever caused a problem in a relationship?

When it comes to disputable matters-- that is, gray areas not specifically forbidden in Scripture but on which Christians may hold strong opinions-- what does this passage advise?

How can you apply this practically in your own life?

*Spend some time in prayer for the names listed under Prayer Requests in the bulletin. Worship God for His greatness!*

### **Saturday**

Finish up any devotions you may have missed this week, and memorize that verse on the top of the previous page! *Please pray for the weekend services! Thanks!*