



Live to God



Romans 14:1-23



October 1, 2020

REVIEW THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

- **Read** the passage aloud.
- How does **context** affect the meaning of the passage (other passages or historical contexts)?
- What do you notice about the passage **structurally**?
- What in the passage reveals the the **tone** of the passage?

If you were to summarize this chapter to someone else how would you do that? Is there a verse which you think best summarizes the passage?

How you categorize the matters Paul is addressing? Personal? Theological? Both? Why so?

What can we learn from Paul's practice with Timothy in Acts 16:1-5 as relates to Romans 14?

Where do you see the gospel specifically mentioned in this passage? How does the gospel inform the way we are called to live in this passage?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

- Have you had a bad experience of being judged because you would or would not participate in a certain liberty (as in the passage — meat, wine, masks, etc)? Share that with the group.
- What matters are most disagreeable these days? Think categorically or specifically from personal experience.
- Is there a matter which you feel you are most likely to be firm on when you should really be more open?
- Is there anyone whom you feel you need to reconcile with after not loving them or building up on a matter of difference? Share with the group as much as you can. Maybe the group can help you think through how to approach that conversation.

For help discerning what is essential and what is charitable consider "A Call for Theological Triage and Christian Maturity" by Al Mohler online (2004).

PRAY TOGETHER

- Confess any attitudes of pride or self-righteousness on matters of difference.
- Praise God for the humility of Christ Jesus who though he is God was crucified for us.
- Ask God for your desire to grow in regards to the gospel — that we would desire to be known by the gospel more than personal differences.
- Ask God for strength and wisdom to navigate conversations where differences create challenges.

GUIDE FOR REVIEWING THE PASSAGE

Structure of the Passage

- Beginning and end
- Repeated words or phrases
- Questions and answers
- Conjunctions (for, therefore, so, and, yet, nor, but, etc)
- Progression (greater to smaller, etc).
- Metaphors / similes / word pictures / illustrations
- Quotations from other passages
- Rhetorical questions
- Genre of book or passage (narrative, epistle, song, parable, etc)
- Places, names, historical events, etc

Tone

Is the author angry, gentle, forceful, sorrowful, excited, thoughtful, etc? How would this text be communicated in person? And how does the tone affect the meaning of the passage?

Connecting to the Gospel of Jesus

The good news is that God loves sinners and has sent Jesus to die in our place, that he raised Jesus from the dead, and that eternal life is offered to all who trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin. The gospel, like a diamond, has many facets which make up its beauty. Consider how your passage connects to a particular facet of the gospel. Here are a few to consider:

- We are adopted as **sons** (Ephesians 1)
- In Christ we have an **inheritance** (Ephesians 1)
- we are **citizens** in Christ's **kingdom** (Colossians 1)
- we are **saved** from God's **wrath** (Romans 3).
- We are **justified** grace through Jesus' blood (Romans 3).
- We are **regenerated** by **grace** and **mercy** (Titus 3).
- We have the **indwelling spirit** as a guarantee (Ephesians 1)

The Aim of the Passage

What does the author the passage expect from the audience? To **know** something? To **do** something? And what precisely does he want his audience to know or do?