

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 14 – 15:13
Discussion Guide, May 23, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. – Romans 13:8

- Did you make any intentional steps toward loving your neighbor this past week? If so, what efforts did you make?

OPEN:

- What aspects of your life should your Christian faith impact?
 - o Is any area unimpacted?

READ and ASK: Romans 14:1-15:13

- What lifestyle rules and issues do Christians argue about today?
 - o How should we distinguish between an activity that is merely permissible and one that is clearly immoral?
 - o When Scripture is not explicit on an issue, how should a person decide what is right and wrong?
- When it comes to “gray areas,” how do you react to those with strict convictions? Those with more lenient convictions?
 - o Regarding grey areas: do you need to hear: 1) Paul’s challenge not to look down on those who have strict convictions? 2) His challenge not to condemn those with more lenient convictions?
 - o Is the person with a strong faith in this text someone who is more strict or more lenient in their convictions? Does that surprise you?
- What should be our main guideline in determining what we do or say in the presence of other Christians?
- How can Christians share a spirit of unity despite having different views on certain practices?
- Does this text say that the stronger should never help the weaker come to a stronger understanding?
 - o By instructing the Romans not to judge each other, does Paul mean we are never to judge between right and wrong where others are concerned? Why or why not? Give examples. (see Ephesians 4:15, Galatians 6:1, Colossians 3:16)
- How does this passage teach that our faith impacts our entire lives?
- Who is our model in accepted others?

APPLY:

- As you have grown in your faith, how has your ability to live out your freedom in Christ changed?
 - o How has your sensitivity to the consciences of other Christians changed?

- Read Romans 15:7 again. What individual or types of people do you have difficulty accepting?
 - o Can you, and how do you commit that to the Lord?

- NEXT STEP(S): What active step can you take to build up others in the church?

Memory Work:

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. – Romans 14:19