

**Message Notes:**  
**How to Become More Like Jesus When You See Things Differently**  
**Series: Receive. Release. Repeat.**  
**Kingswood Church**  
**Rural Hall, NC**  
**September 13, 2026**  
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**Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters. <sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while one who is weak eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not judge one who does, because God has accepted him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person judges one day to be more important than another day. Someone else judges every day to be the same. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> Whoever observes the day, observes it for the honor of the Lord. Whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; and whoever does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat it, and he gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> But you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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**Mainline:** The goal is not to make \_\_\_\_\_ more like \_\_\_\_\_, but for \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to become \_\_\_\_\_.

✠ **The Word...In A Word:**

Romans 14 shows us that discipleship is revealed not only by what we believe, but by how we live with people who see some things differently. Paul calls followers of Jesus to (1) welcome one another, (2) live their convictions before the Lord, (3) resist judging fellow believers, and (4) remember that every disciple belongs to Jesus Christ. Christian maturity

means giving Jesus greater authority over our own lives while trusting Him to lead others. When Jesus becomes the Lord of our convictions, conversations, and relationships, differences do not have to divide us. They can become opportunities to grow in grace, love more deeply, and become more like Jesus.

✠ **Questions For Reflection:**

- (1) What does welcoming another believer teach us about following Jesus? {Romans 14:1-3}
- (2) What does Romans 14:4 teach us about Jesus as Lord?
- (3) What does it mean for us to make decisions "for the Lord"? {Romans 14:5-8}
- (4) How does belonging to Jesus define discipleship? {Romans 14:7-9}
- (5) How does accountability to Jesus change the way we treat others? {Romans 14:10-12}

✠ **How To Put It Into Practice In Daily Life:**

**(1) Welcome people with grace, then walk together toward Jesus.**  
**{Romans 14:1-4}**

Paul begins with one clear word: "**Welcome.**" And he tells us why: "**God has accepted him**" (Romans 14:3).

That changes the way we deal with people. We don't try to make someone more like us. The goal isn't to pull other people over to our side. The goal is for us to walk together toward Jesus.

**How To Live It:**

When disagreement comes, choose **connection before correction**. Listen long enough to understand. Stay close enough to care. Then ask: "**What would help us follow Jesus well from here?**"  
**Agreement isn't the starting point for discipleship; Jesus is.**

**(2) Live to Please the Lord, Not to Prove the Point**  
**{Romans 14:5-9}**

Paul keeps repeating the phrase "**for the Lord.**"  
Observe the day **for the Lord**. Eat **for the Lord**. Abstain **for the Lord**. Live **for the Lord**.

Then comes the reason: "**We belong to the Lord**" (Romans 14:8). The question is no longer, "Can I prove my point?" It becomes, "**Can I honor Jesus with my choice, my words, and the way I treat you?**" A disciple does not merely ask what is permitted. A disciple asks what pleases the One he follows.

**How To Live It:**

Before you make the decision, send the message, enter the conversation, or defend your position, run it through the **“for the Lord” test**:

**Can I thank God for this?**

**Can I honor Jesus through this?**

**Can I do this with a clear conscience before Him?**

If you can, move forward with confidence and humility.

If you can't, don't move forward just because you can win.

**A disciple's greatest victory is not winning the argument; it is honoring the Lord.**

✝ **Bible Passages for Further Study:**

**John 13:34–35**

<sup>34</sup> “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

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**Romans 15:1–7**

<sup>1</sup> Now we who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each one of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself. On the contrary, as it is written, The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. <sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.

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**Ephesians 4:1–6, 29–32**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—<sup>5</sup> one

Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>29</sup> No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

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**Colossians 3:12–15**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.

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✝ **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, make me more like You.

Teach me to welcome people with grace, live my convictions with humility, and trust You to lead the people who belong to You. Keep me from turning differences into divisions or convictions into reasons to judge.

Remind us that we all belong to You. Let that truth guide our decisions, our words, our relationships, and the way we respond when others see things differently.

Give me courage to follow You faithfully and humility to stop trying to control someone else's walk. When disagreement comes, help me ask what response would honor You and reveal more of Your character. Make me a disciple who listens well, speaks wisely, loves generously, and keeps Jesus as the focus.

Let our church become a place where people are welcomed by grace, strengthened in faith, and encouraged to keep becoming more like Christ.

**Jesus, make us more like You. Amen.**