

Who Are You to Judge?

Romans 14:1 – 15:13

Getting Started

1. Share with your group an area where your family compromises for the sake of peace. Why?
2. Why do you think some people think “compromise” is a bad word? When is it good to compromise? Bad?



In the Word (The text for this week’s discussion is Romans 14:1 – 15:13)

Groups are not expected to discuss all questions!

1. (Romans 14:1-12) What does it mean to have faith that is “strong” or “weak”?
 - a. How should the “strong” view the “weak”?
 - b. How should the “weak” view the “strong”?
 - c. What examples of “disputable matters” does Paul use?
 - d. Ultimately, to who are we to live to please?
2. (Romans 14:13-23) If we are not to judge, what are we to do?
 - a. Is this an attitude of passivity? An excuse to be lethargic? How does this look?
 - b. What does Paul warn the Roman Christians to avoid?
3. (Romans 15:1-13) How does Paul’s statement speak to the value of Bible study?
 - a. Paul uses Jesus as the example for Christians in their dealings with others—what examples does he use? Why?
 - b. Paul speaks of “unity” and then mentions Jews and Gentiles; how does this relate to the idea of “accepting one another”?
 - c. Who does Paul say will receive the praise if this is done?

Application

1. What criteria can be used to decide what is a “disputable matter” and what is not? Is everything disputable (in the sense that Paul used the phrase)?
2. What examples of “disputable matters” do people judge one another on today?
3. What is the difference between someone being genuinely weak and being manipulative or self-centered?
4. How does looking at Jesus’ example guide the way we are to act and react to our brothers and sisters in Christ? How does this relate to Bible study?

Prayer Time:

1. Seems only appropriate this evening that we pray for our shepherds, especially after this morning’s ordination, and their families.
2. As a group, can you put together a list of a few people whom you strongly desire to see come to know the hope that is found only in Christ?
3. How can the group pray for you this evening—are there areas of special concern?