



#1 Accept Each Other

Romans 14:1-9

“There’s nothing quite like the local church... *when it’s working right.*”

LOVING ONE ANOTHER DESPITE DIFFERENCES

Romans 14:1 (NIV) *Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. ² One man’s faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The 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, for God has accepted him. ⁴ 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.*

⁵ *One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

⁹ *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

THE THREE BINS

Absolutes	Convictions	Preferences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal clear in scripture • “Hills to die on” • Applicable to everyone • Fight for these in your church; separate from those who deny them • Deny these; deny Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not crystal clear • “Gray areas” • Form convictions based on scriptural principles • Apply to self and family • Maybe debate over • Going against is sin for you • Church may apply to leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture is silent • “I like purple” • Decide based on tastes • Apply to self only • Trying to convert others is usually unfruitful • Not a matter of right and wrong; lots of variation

PRINCIPLES FOR MATURING IN LOVE

#1 – The Principle of **INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION**

To his own master he stands or falls

#2 – The Principle of **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind

#3 – The Principle of **INAPPROPRIATE USURPING**

Who are you to judge someone else’s servant?

#4 – The Principle of **GOD’S ACCEPTANCE**

...for God has accepted him

#5 – The Principle of **OPPOSITE CHOICES, SAME MOTIVE**

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.

“the weak in faith”—

“the strong in faith”—

#6 – The Principle of **SERVANTHOOD FOCUS**

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

#7 – The Principle of **GOSPEL PROMINENCE**

For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Remembering the deceased...