

Series: Community and Diversity; *Sermon:* **Not Passing Judgment on Each Other**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **November 20, 2016**

Bible text explored: Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

[ESV]

Review and application:

1. According to verses 2 and 5a, what two secondary matters threatened to undermine the unity of the church at Rome?

The way Paul uses the word faith (v. 1) is distinct from its use related to the basis of salvation. Rather, it is about applying faith to Christian living. In Rome, those weak in faith were not yet clear on the status of first covenant regulations under the new covenant.

2. What views did the strong-faith element hold?
What views did the weak-faith element hold?
3. How (v. 1) are we to treat Christians who hold a different view from us on matters neither doctrinal nor moral?
4. Does the admonition against “quarreling over opinions” mean we are to avoid arriving at personal convictions over secondary matters? (See v. 5b.)
But what (v. 3) is the person with the more unrestricted conscience to avoid?
What is the person with the more restricted conscience to avoid?
5. How (v. 1) can we make brothers and sisters who differ with us on secondary matters feel truly welcome?
Whose welcome (v. 3b) have they already obtained?
What (v. 6) are we to recognize about their motivation?
6. How much of my conduct (v. 7) is motivated by a desire for the approval of others?
Whose approval should be the sole motivator?
7. Since Jesus is our Lord both now and in the future (vv.8-9), why should our love for each other take precedence over our own preferences? (See Phil. 2:3-4.)
8. To whom (vv. 10-11) is our final accountability?
Are we allowing him the same ultimate authority in the lives of other believers?
9. How can we at the same time develop clear minds and soft hearts?

