



Transformed Receiving

*The Weak & Strong in Faith: Part One
from Romans 14:1–12*

The “One Anothers” of Receptivity in Romans 14–15

- “Do not judge *one another*” (14:13).
- “Let us pursue those matters that lead to peace and to edification for *one another*” (14:19).
- “May the God of endurance and of comfort give to you the power to think the same thing among *one another* according to Christ Jesus” (15:5).



Both “strong”
and “weak” Christians
in Rome needed to practice
receptivity toward one
another because it is the
Lord, rich in mercy, who alone
possesses the ultimate right
to judge the believer’s status
and conduct (Rom. 14:1–12).

**Who are the “weak”
in faith?**

“The ‘weak’ were mainly Jewish Christians who refrained from certain kinds of food and observed certain days out of continuing loyalty to the Mosaic law . . . the conflict between those who practiced some form of Jewish custom and those who did not was the most significant issue within Christianity’s first two generations.”

–Douglas Moo in *The Epistle to the Romans*, pp. 828–30

Paul on Practicing Receptivity

- Paul instructed that the “strong” in faith must receive the “weak” in faith because God has received him (Rom. 14:1–3).
- Paul reminded the Roman believers that every Christian is a servant of the Lord; and it is to that master, and not to any other fellow servant, that the believer must answer (Rom. 14:4–9).
- Paul warned that both the “strong” in faith and the “weak” in faith must yet appear and answer before the judgment seat of God for how they have treated one another (Rom. 14:10–12).

**Abiding in
God's mercies
in Christ
cultivates an
obedient
receptivity
toward one
another.**



RECEIVE people and
personal growth.

Welcome Growing People.

- **RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER:** Reception should be the initial response toward people in the body of Christ. Receive one another instead of engaging in verbal conflict over reasoned opinions.
- **DISCIPLE ONE ANOTHER:** Improper judgment of fellow believers flourishes where true discipleship is absent.
 - I'm not permitted to pass judgment without grace, so as to influence or condemn by means of severity. I am not permitted to belittle the significance of another person.
 - I am permitted to disciple and admonish.



Can we ever “judge” one another?



1. Self-examine to see clearly (Matt. 7; Lk. 6; Rom. 14:13).
2. Seek the Lord of the house (Rom. 14:4–12; 1 Cor. 3:16–17).
3. Sift out only the “leaven” license and legalism (1 Cor. 5:12; Gal. 5:9).
4. Pray for maturity and repentance (1 Cor. 11:19; 2 Cor. 7:10).
5. Sow seeds of peace and reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18; 6:11–13; Eph. 2:11–22; Jam. 3:18).

Welcome Personal Growth.

- **GROW BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS:** Each person must be fully assured in their own minds about gray matters (Faith in God's word - Rom. 4:21; matured by prayer - Col. 4:12).
- **BELONG TO GOD:** You belong to God in death and in life. What he thinks of you and your decisions matters in a superior way. However, we must be very careful not to assume, like culture often does, that whomever I am and whatever I do, God approves. As we learned in Romans 12:2, before we can approve the will of God, we must be transformed by the renewal of our minds by word and Spirit.
- **ANTICIPATE AN ACCOUNTING:** Are you — whether strong or weak — ready to give an account for your choices to God?



How do I become “fully convinced” about gray matters?



EVERYONE
IS
ENTITLED
TO
MY
OPINION

1. Find things worthy of convictions in the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16–17).
2. Don't just study a biblical topic in one spot, but what the whole of Scripture has to say about it.
3. Mature your convictions with prayerfulness and fellowship with mature believers.
4. Hold your convictions with grace toward others who have biblically reasoned to other convictions.



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