

# When Christians Disagree: The Call to Mutual Acceptance<sup>1</sup>

## Romans 14:1–15:6

In Romans 14-15, Paul addresses the situation in which brothers and sisters in Christ have differences of viewpoint with regard to matters upon which Scripture does not provide specific teaching.

### **The Exhortation to Mutual Acceptance (14:1–5)**

Paul cites two examples that form the backdrop for his overall exhortation in this section.

In all instances Paul exhorts (1) “welcoming” (ESV), “accepting” (NAS, NIV) or “receiving” (NKJV, KJV) those who are “weak in faith.”

Conversely, Paul enjoins weak believers to refrain from “despising” or “passing judgment” upon other believers in matters to which Scripture does not speak (vv. 3–4).

### **The Basis for Mutual Acceptance (14:6–9)**

Beginning in v. 6 Paul states what should be the overriding motivation for all of a believer’s actions: \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8a).

### **The Accounting for Mutual Acceptance (14:10–12)**

Paul reminds his readers of the accounting every believer will one day give before the Lord.

### **Five Principles for Christ-honoring Conduct in Disputable matters (14:13–23)**

In vv. 1–12 Paul’s focus is primarily upon the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_ towards other Christians with whom they may differ over matters that Scripture does not explicitly address. In vv. 13– 23 Paul’s focus is primarily upon the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_ towards another believer in light of these differences.

1. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 13, 20–21).
2. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ towards another (v. 15).
3. The principle of kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 16–18).

According to 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, there is another major kingdom priority: \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> Inspired by *Rules of Engagement* by Brad Mellette (2021).

4. The principle of mutual \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19).

5. The principle of a clear \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 14, 22–23).

**The Call to Lovingly Support the Weaker Brother for the Purpose of Unity (15:1–6)**

In imitation of Christ (v. 3) Paul places upon the “strong” the obligation to bear with those who are “weak,” rather than to please themselves for the purpose of edification.

In vv. 5–6, Paul prays for the unification of the “strong” and the “weak” to the glory of God (cf. John 17).