

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

HOW TO APPROACH DISPUTABLE MATTERS (Romans 14:1-12)

Talk-it-Over Notes | September 26-27, 2026

REVIEW IT

Because the church in Rome included believers from many religious, cultural, and racial backgrounds, opinions varied widely on lifestyle issues not clearly defined in Scripture.

“Accept the one whose faith is weak,
without quarreling over **disputable matters**.” — Romans 14:1-2 NIV

Disputable matters are those the Bible neither commands nor prohibits. They're not matters of doctrine; they're matters of opinion because the Bible does not give a clear principle. Someone's faith is weak when they don't understand grace and instead rely on external works to be right with God, feeling the need to make rules where none exist.

Common responses to those with whom we disagree:

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| 1) Label them | 2) Treat them with contempt |
| 3) Try and force them to change | 4) Make a fool of ourselves |

Why can I live in harmony with those who disagree with me on disputable matters?

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| 1) God has accepted them | 2) It's not my responsibility to judge or change them |
| 3) I don't know their motives | 4) Each person is accountable to Christ |

Spend some time in the Word: Read Romans 14:1-12

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Of the four common responses with whom we disagree, and the four reasons we can accept those which whom we disagree, which one grabs your attention?
2. How can someone discern the difference between clear doctrine and a disputable matter?
3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes accepting one another in matters where the Bible is not clear?
4. How can we balance having strong convictions with showing grace and unity?
5. What else stood out to you from this bible reading and message?

ACT ON IT

Verse 5: *“One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be **fully convinced** in their own mind.”* Here are some tests to help you become “fully convinced” and have a clear conscience regarding some disputable matters in your own life.

1. The influence test - Is it going to wrongly influence my family or other believers?
2. The prayer test - Do I have a clear conscience after I pray about it?
3. The fellowship test - Would it damage my relationship with another believer?
4. The companion test - would I do this with another believer?
5. The peace test - Do I have peace, really?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer.