



R o m a n s

**The Good News,
Chapters 14-15**

Ephesians 4

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called; ⁵ **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**; ⁶ **one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all.

The Big Question

Can groups with completely different convictions of what it means to be loyal to and worship God live together as one community?

Romans 14-15

These were big issues!

Principle #1

Accept those with a different perspective
(14:1-9)

- We can serve God from different angles
- God might actually give us different convictions about some things

Principle #2

Don't Judge Others (14:10-18)

- No room for contempt
- Your ideologies and preferences do not supersede our family commitment

Principle #3

Pursue Peace (14:19-21)

- A balance of love must be struck
- Your ideologies and preferences do not supersede our family commitment
- Do not destroy God's work for your preferences
- "I'll never do that again if it causes damage in the body"

Principle #4

Keep it To Yourself (14:22-23)

- Does not refer to your initial convictions
- Keep your opinions on other's convictions to yourself
- Again, there is a balance here that demands great discernment between sin and conviction
- Paul is not giving a license to do whatever you wish

Principle #5

Bear With One Another (15:1-4)

- It is more important to build up others than to be right
- Paul gently demonstrates that he thinks there is a best position, but never demeans those who think differently

Principle #6

Have the Mind of Christ (15:5-6)

- True unity is found in undivided loyalty
not in uniformity

Principle #7

Accept as Christ Accepted (15:7)

- True unity is found in undivided loyalty
not in uniformity

Principle #8

This is Bigger Than You (15:8-22)

- God is brought glory and the gospel is spread through our loyalty and love for one another more than the rightness of our convictions and opinions on disputable matters
- To separate because of a disputable matter is a complete failure to hold to the gospel message

Principle #9

Our Place in the Mission Depends On It
(15:23-33)