

Group Conversation Guide

Week of July 28 - Aug 2, 2024

Message Title: “Why Can’t We All Get Along?”

Message Text: Romans 14

Before Your Small Group Meeting:

- Attend or Watch Pastor Brandon Rieb's Message: churchatviera.com/live/

Beginning the Conversation

Read Scripture: Romans 14:1-23

Key Themes:

- Unity in Diversity: Embracing differences in convictions.
- Avoiding Judgment: Focusing on personal accountability to God.
- Living Out Liberty with Love: Balancing freedom and responsibility.
- Judge (κρίνω, krinō): To separate, select, choose, or determine.

Discussion Starter Questions:

Sharing Your Story:

- Share a time when you felt judged for your beliefs or practices. How did it impact you?
- Can you recall an instance where you experienced Christian liberty in a positive way? How did it affect your faith?

Diving into Scripture:

Romans 14:1 - "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters."

- What "disputable matters" can cause division among Christians today?
- How can we show acceptance to those with different views?

Romans 14:3-4 - "The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand."

- Why is it important not to judge others in matters of personal conviction?
- How can we remind ourselves that everyone is accountable to God, not to us?

Romans 14:5-6 - "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. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord."

- How do personal convictions about practices like observing certain days or dietary choices vary among Christians?
- Why is it essential to respect these convictions and do everything as unto the Lord?

Romans 14:10-12 - "You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God."

- How does knowing that we will all stand before God's judgment seat change the way we interact with others?
- What are practical steps we can take to avoid judging others?

Romans 14:13 - "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister."

- What are some ways we can unintentionally become stumbling blocks to others?
- How can we be more mindful of our actions and their impact on others?

Romans 14:17-18 - "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval."

- What does it mean that the kingdom of God is about "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit"?
- How can focusing on these qualities help us navigate disputes and differences?

Romans 14:19 - "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

- What practical ways can we promote peace and edification in our community?
- How can we prioritize building each other up over winning arguments or proving points?

Personal Reflection:

1. How do you balance your freedom in Christ with the responsibility to love and respect others' convictions?
2. How can you show more grace and acceptance to fellow believers with different views on disputable matters?
3. What steps can you take to ensure your actions build up the church rather than causing division or judgment?

Worship Song (Optional - From YouTube):

"Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong Worship: <https://youtu.be/lKw6uqtGFfo?feature=shared>

Summary:

Romans 14 calls us to live out our faith with a focus on unity, love, and respect for the diverse convictions within the body of Christ.

Practical Application:

- Identify areas where you may have been too judgmental towards others' convictions. Pray for a heart of grace and understanding.
- Commit to encouraging someone who may feel judged or marginalized due to their beliefs or practices this week.