



What To Do When You Know You're Right

Romans 14:1-12

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1. From today's passage, what were the issues in Rome? Why were these issues so intense for the Roman Christians? Do these seem like issues worth dividing over?
2. In what way were the issues in Rome similar to issues we face today? Put another way, what are some of the "intense" issues we face today? Are these worth dividing over?
3. What issues are worth dividing over? Why or why not?

Paul's makes three points which can help us move past divisive issues to actually growing deeper in our love for each other—all to the glory of God.

First: Welcome Each Other (verses 1-5a)

1. What does it mean to "welcome" a brother or sister who is weak in the faith?
2. According to Paul, who is weaker in the faith? Those who are soli-vegetable or pro-everything? Those who are soli-Sabbath or pro-every day? What point do you think Paul is making by taking this position?
3. These days, what difference does Paul's teaching make in how you welcome those who are "weaker" in the faith?

Second: Seek To Obey God (verses 5b,6)

1. According to Paul, whatever side of the argument we are on, what should be our first concern?
2. What do the following verses teach us about our attitudes and actions as we seek to obey God in the midst of divisive issues. Proverbs 3:5; Matthew 6:15; 7:3; James 4:10
3. These days, in the midst of divisive situations, what does seeking to obey God look like in your life today?

Third: Remember Who You Are In Jesus (verses 7-12)

1. What are Paul's two truths about who we are in Jesus?
2. These days, what difference do these truths make in your relationships with others?

Take Home Questions

1. If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why?
2. How do you plan to apply it this week?

Extra Credit

Francis Schaeffer, in discussing a destructive church split in the first part of the 20th century, makes the following observation: *"Our calling is to exhibit the existence of God and to exhibit His character, individually and collectively. God is holy and God is love, and our calling is simultaneously to show forth holiness and love in every aspect of life... To show forth both simultaneously, in personal matters or in church and public life, can only be done in any real degree by our consciously bowing, denying our egotistic selves, and letting Christ bring forth His fruit through us—not merely as a "religious" statement, but with some ongoing reality... Thus whenever it becomes necessary to draw a line in the defense of a central Christian truth it is so easy to be proud, to be hard. It is easy to be self-righteous and to self-righteously think that we are so right on this one point that anything else may be excused—this is very easy, a very easy thing to fall into. These mistakes were made, and we have suffered from this and the cause of Christ has suffered from this through fifty years. By God's grace, let us consciously look to our Lord for His help not to give Satan the victory by making this tragic error again."*¹

1. Thinking through Paul's teaching, and the observation of Francis Schaeffer, how are we to balance holiness and love in our response towards others?
2. Thinking about some of the divisive church situations you have witnessed (or situations in your family, workplace, school, or...) what difference would there have been if Paul's teaching (and Francis Schaeffer's advice) would have been followed?
3. What about a current situation you might be in? How might the truths of the above study be helpful?

1. Francis Schaeffer, "The Great Evangelical Disaster", Crossway Books, Westchester, Illinois, 1984, page 76