

“Welcome the Weak in Faith” A Study of the Book of Romans

Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: One way Christians love one another is by welcoming those who are weaker in faith.

In Romans 15:7, Paul exhorts his readers to “welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” “Welcome” here means to admit into friendship, to draw one another close in friendship. Just as God’s love is the impetus for us loving one another, as John says in his first letter: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11 ESV), so we should also admit into our friendship those whom God has also admitted into his friendship – as God has welcomed them. As a function of our walking in Love (13:8-10) and our walking in Light (13:11-14), we receive into our communion and friendship all those whom God has received in salvation, no matter if they’re strong in faith or weak in faith. We don’t reject them. We welcome them.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 14:1-12** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “Welcome the Weak in Faith.”

DIG IN

1. The Instruction: Welcome Weaker Christians (Romans 14:1-5)

According to verses 1-2, how does Paul describe “the one who is weak?” Is this a Christian? How do we know?

Why is it important that we not quarrel over opinions? How might that also be a weakness among us?

According to verses 3-4, what is the rationale for not casting judgment on one another?

In verses 2 and 5, what are the two examples that Paul gives to describe the difference between those who are weak in faith and those who may be stronger in faith?

Can you think of other examples of the “weak in faith” from contemporary Church culture?

2. The Motivation: to Honor the Lord (Romans 14:6-9)

In what specific ways can a person who abstains from certain activities and one who enjoys Christian liberty in those same activities both honor the Lord?

Does our abstinence or liberty change our destiny (vv. 8-9)? Why or why not?

3. The Judge: God in Christ (Romans 14:10-12)

In what ways will both God the Father and Christ the Son judge the believer (see verse 10b; 2 Corinthians 5:10)?

In what ways should we test our convictions for the sake of Christian love?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?