

ROMANS 14:1–15:7

Getting Along in the Gray

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 14:1

I. Don't look _____ on another believer in the gray.

Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 14:3-4

II. Don't cause another believer to _____ in the gray.

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 14:13-15

DRAWING LINES BETWEEN BLACK, WHITE AND GRAY

Is it explicitly or categorically prohibited in Scripture?

Am I free in Christ, and is there wisdom to be applied?

Am I hindering someone else's faith?

Am I convinced that I am free in Christ and not a hindrance to anyone else?

Is it in step with the Spirit?

III. Be Christlike, giving _____ to get along in the gray.

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 15:1-2

Don't think of yourself more _____ than you ought.

Consider your actions in light of how they will _____ another's faith.

Lay down your liberties to serve the greater good of _____ in Christ.

In Light
of
Christ

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 14:1–15:7. What “nonessential” practices have you seen Christians quibble about, and with what results? Why do believers sometimes disagree over these “gray areas”?
2. In this passage, who are described as *weak Christians*, who are *strong Christians*, and why? Where would you put yourself on this spectrum, and on what specific matter?
3. In what nonessential subjects are some of your Christian friends more strict than you are? What is your attitude toward them, and how does it affect your relationship with them?
4. How do we decide whether something is core biblical truth or merely preference? (See 13:8-10; 14:15-19; 15:1-3, 6.)

“A new age would dawn in the church if we remembered that our rights are far less important than our obligations; if we remembered that, while we possess Christian liberty, it is always an offense to use it as if it conferred upon us the right to grieve the heart and conscience of someone else. Unless a church is a body of people who, in love, consider one another, it is not a church at all.”

WILLIAM BARCLAY

“It takes a mature wisdom to know the difference between essential matters of morality and nonessential matters of conscience. It takes mature love to put one’s own preference behind the good of others. It takes uncommon foresight to look beyond the immediate sacrifice of freedom for the sake of God’s great plan for the world. It takes supernatural grace to give others the freedom to be different without suffering our condemnation. It takes love to let others be. So if you find yourself thinking less of another believer because he or she enjoys something distasteful to you, you are the weak-faith person in that relationship!”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

“In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

AUGUSTINE

5. If you’re sure something is neither required nor forbidden in Scripture, in what circumstances might it still be wrong to do?

6. How could doing what another mistakenly thinks is wrong cause them to be grieved, to stumble or to be destroyed (14:13-15)?

7. Paul prays for unity among Christians. Does that mean believers must come to the same opinions or convictions about everything? Why or why not?

8. Are you too restrictive yourself in some area, forcing other Christians to adjust to your own limitations? Alternatively, do you insist on your liberty in Christ to the detriment of another? How could you grant them freedom and respect in things not central to the Christian faith and still obey your own conscience?

It takes much study of all of Scripture, and great discernment of our own prejudices and preferences, to accurately define what is a core essential of the Christian faith and what is simply (rightly or wrongly) our own interpretation of Scripture and preferred practice. Bring these matters to God in prayer. Ask Him to show you what to hold as a core truth, and what to leave to personal preference. Then ask Him to search your heart with the goal of correcting any lack of tolerance you may have for other Christians who disagree with you on the unimportant matters.

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn’t based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God’s love for us. Here’s how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

MAKE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WITH CHRIST CHAPEL This Christmas Eve, experience a night of peace and joy at Christ Chapel. Surrounded by candlelight, we’ll gather, worship and celebrate Christmas, in light of Christ. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas—Immanuel, God with us. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you! Join us by sending an RSVP today at www.ccbcfamily.org/christmaseve.

BE, MAKE AND REACH IN 2025 WITH END-OF-YEAR GIVING There are multiple ways you give throughout a year, and we want to thank you for stepping into the places of need to show our neighboring communities and the world the love of Jesus. During December, we collect a special gift for End-of-Year Giving, and for 2025, we’re focusing on making room for people in need. This includes giving to the next generation, missions and ministry and our church partners in El Salvador. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/give and pick up an EOY envelope during the worship service.

SHARE IN PRAYER THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON This holiday season, let’s come together in prayer. Whether you’re celebrating with joy or navigating a more challenging season, we can go to God together at www.ccbcfamily.org/prayer — share your own prayer requests and find new ways to pray for our church family and neighbors!

LET’S SERVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! Christ Chapel, we are blown away at how you have continued to step up and reach out to share the love of Jesus in our cities! This holiday season let’s continue to reach out and share the hope of Christmas with our community. Visit www.ccbcfamily.org/serve to find out more about ministry partners that you can serve alongside.

DATING, ENGAGED OR NEWLY MARRIED? Your relationship has the potential to speak to more than your love for one another — it can speak of Jesus. Here at Christ Chapel, we have opportunities for you to discover what it means for God’s will and Word to influence love, dating and marriage by being a part of AVENEW. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew.



IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.