

Living by Faith, Loving by Faith
Romans 14:10-23 (p. #949 in Pew Bible)

Key words and phrases in this **section (14:1-15:13)**:

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • “Welcome” | • “Master/Lord” |
| • “Weak” & “Strong” | • “Thanks” |
| • “Faith” | • “Brother” |
| • “Despise” & “Judgment” | • “Honor” |

3 Important Truths to Consider
When You Disagree with a Brother or Sister in Christ:

1. Every _____ will give an account of their convictions and decisions directly to God. (14:10-12)
 - *Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:1-16*
 - **Application:** *Instead of sinfully judging or despising your brothers and sisters in Christ with whom you disagree, humbly rest in the promise of God’s future day of perfect accountability and personal confession.*
 - **Application:** *Humbly and prayerfully examine your heart-felt convictions and decisions for refinement and spiritual edification.*

2. Christians are called to _____ edify one another instead of causing grief by being a stumbling block and hinderance to spiritual growth. (14:13-19)
 - **Application:** *Be more committed to loving your brothers and sisters in Christ than you are to winning them over to your personal convictions and standards.*

- **Application:** *Keep the big picture in mind (“the Kingdom of God” and discipleship) rather than focusing on rashly or immediately “curing” spiritually immature weakness (“unclean” vs. “clean”).*
- **Observation:** *Christians patiently loving one another is far greater and more difficult than Christians severing relationships with one another over personal convictions and preferences.*
 - *“Destroy” (vs. 15, 20) can be translated as “lose” or “ruin.” (1 Corinthians 8:11)*
- **Observation:** *Biblical discipleship by living in grace is difficult and can seem “messy” at times. However, it is part of God’s good plan to grow our faith in Him! Living in grace requires living by faith and loving by faith.*

3. **Christians are sinning if they are not living out their personal convictions and decisions before God by _____ . (14:20-23)**

- **Observation:** *Christians who are “strong (in faith)” are instructed to exercise their personal convictions privately (or quietly) by faith before God rather than allowing them to become a matter of contention with other Christians who are “weak (in faith)” in this area.*
- **Application:** *Anytime a “weak (in faith)” Christian is forced to go against their conscience (1 Corinthians 8:7-12) it is sinful because they are being coerced to act in fear by compulsion rather than in faith by grace.*

BIG IDEA: *Christians must edify one another in love by faith.*