



THE DANGER OF CRITICISM

Romans 14:1-12

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The Apostles' letters are full of commands & instructions regarding the need to continually remove sin in the church. A major theme in the New Testament is that sin's power is to destroy the spiritual and moral health of the church as well as its individuals who commit sin. Today, we look at the Danger of Criticism for us as believers and how we should receive each other believer. The particular danger to unity Paul addresses is the conflict that easily arises between those to whom he refers as strong and weak believers, those who are mature in the faith and those who are immature. Paul gives four reasons why all believers, both strong & weak, should receive other believers.

Romans 14:1-12

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

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. **3** 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. **4** 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. **5** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. **8** For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. **10** Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; **11** for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." **12** So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

1. GOD RECEIVES All Believers (v. 1-3)

2. The LORD SUSTAINS Each Believer (v. 4)

"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us" **Romans 8:33-34**

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”*

John 10:27-28

*“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” **Hebrews 7:25***

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” **Philippians 1:6***

- The Christian's basic attitude to a fellow-Christian is one of WELCOME and ACCEPTANCE based on God's attitude to us in Christ.

3. The LORD is SOVEREIGN to Each Believer (v. 5-9)

*“Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. **17** These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.” **Colossians 2:16-17***

*And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” **Acts 23:1***

- We BELONG wholly to Christ because we “have been BOUGHT with a price.” **1 Corinthians 6:20**

*“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” **Acts 20:28***

4. The LORD Alone will JUDGE Each Believer (v. 10-12)

2 types of Discipline given in Scripture:

- CHURCH-Discipline (**Matthew 18:15-17**)
Christians are not to pass judgment, but walk with each other toward maturity.
- SELF-Discipline (**2 Corinthians 7:1**)
Our responsibility is not to judge, despise, criticize, or in any way belittle another believer in Christ. May we restore and receive one another in Jesus Christ.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision you could ever make is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death. Yet through God's love, only Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead — YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to REPENT of your sins, BELIEVE in Jesus thereby receiving His forgiveness. And identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.