

“LORD BOTH OF THE DEAD AND OF THE LIVING”

Romans 14:1-12

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. How does Paul understand the problem? (vv. 1-5)

“weak in faith”

“not to quarrel over opinions”

“the weak person eats only vegetables”

“Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains”

“Let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats”

_____ consciences _____ those of differing opinions.

Matthew 7:1-3

James 4:11-12

“They who have made the most progress in Christian doctrine should accommodate themselves to the more ignorant, and employ their own strength to sustain their weakness.”

-John Calvin

“The weak are not to be made to feel that they are barely tolerated and seen as second-class members. They are to be received with warmth and true fellowship. Christian love demands no less.”

-Leon Morris

II. Why are we to welcome rather than condemn those with different opinions? (vv. 7-12)

“welcome him” or accept (NASB).

1. *“God has welcomed him”*

2. He/she is Christ’s _____, not yours!

3. *“The Lord is able to make him stand”*

4. *“Christ died and lived again”* → *“Lord of both the dead and of the living.”*

5. We will all be _____ by Jesus: *“each of us will give an account of himself to God”*

As Lord of both the dead and the living, Jesus' _____ is the one that matters.

Acts 17:30-31
2 Timothy 4:1

"The fact that each will render account for himself leaves no room for despising and judging others. The verdict on them is for God, not us." -Leon Morris

"Whatever a Christian's strength or weakness in behavior or views, he or she is completely loved and accepted by the Father through Christ." -Tim Keller

III. How are we to live before the Lord both of the dead and of the living? (vv. 1, 5-6, 11)

"welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions."

"Be fully convinced in his own mind"

Honor Christ in your _____ and brotherly _____.

Isaiah 45:18-25
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Hebrews 5:14

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. -WCF, XX

"And a truly sanctified heart does not want to skip over or blot out one word God has written but desires to be a doer of the whole will of God." -William Gurnall

"Whatever the Word of God requires is the rule of God's Spirit; apocryphal holiness- doubtful, marginal, or extraneous- is not true holiness at all."
-William Gurnall Tozer

Questions for Digging Deeper:

1. What do find yourself quarreling about?
2. What issues do you despise or think little of those who disagree?
3. What issues do you condemn those who disagree?
4. Which of the reasons Paul provided do you need to remember most, and why?
5. How are we to live because God alone is the Lord of the conscience?