

of Discipleship

July 24, 2022

Day 1: Romans 14:1-3

Accept him whose faith is weak, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

How we live as brothers and sisters in the church has always been a key issue. How we treat each other is critical if others who do not claim Christ as Lord are to be convinced that He is Lord. We do not come together for worship to question someone's outward expression of faith. There is a place for the church to debate various topics but worship is not one of them. This is because worship is celebration our new life in Christ. This new life is seen most fully in communion.

Question: Can you give an example of something *weak* and something *strong*?

Challenge: What words come to mind when you think of Worship?

Scripture: Daniel 1:3-16

Day 2: Romans 14:5-6

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

The majority of Christians go to worship on Sunday but there is nothing in the scripture that says that is the best day to worship. Whatever day we hold sacred or whatever we eat, it should be done to the Lord. It is wrong for Christians to look down on each other for liking different kinds of worship. We may enjoy or get more out of a particular style of worship but that is just our personal preference. If worship is truly done to the Lord it is acceptable. Vegetarians and meat eaters should not look down on each other.

Question: What words come to your mind when you think of worship?

Challenge: This week find a place that serves strictly vegetarian and have a vegetarian meal.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-12

Day 3: Romans 14:7-8

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

We do need to consider who our decisions will affect because we are not solitary people. We are the servants of Christ, not some great idea. We have been bought with a price and belong to the one who bought us. The reality is that we are never alone because in Christ we are connected to all other Christians.

Question: Do you feel that you are alone?

Challenge: Rekindle a friendship that has been dormant.

Scripture: Psalm 62

Day 4: Romans 14:9

For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living

The reason Christ died was to make sure that we would never be alone. He is Lord of us while we are living and when we have died. We are not even alone in death. Jesus' returning after three days was the proof that Jesus is God and being God He can bring us to be with the Father in the Kingdom of God.

Question: Has someone close to you died? Did the funeral help you deal with that death?

Challenge: Read the scripture below. Does it help you deal with the reality of death?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-58

Day 5: Romans 14:10

You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Because we are united in Christ we should not let custom (human made rules) separate us from one another. The word "judge" here carries with it the ability to carry out the judgment. Judgment does not mean just opinion but also action. Christians should stay out of the judging business because we will stand before the real judge and this judge will ask us how we treated our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Question: Have you ever been to court and been the defendant?

Challenge: Take a look at your attitudes and see where you have biases.

Scripture: Galatians 2:11-21

Day 6: Romans 14:11-12

It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Even though years have gone by yet still the whole world has not bowed before God. We still operate on the assumption that Jesus is Lord of all creation. The world may not recognize it yet but Jesus Christ is Lord. His kingdom is felt whenever the love of God is shared from one person to another.

Question: Do you have one principle that you live by more than any other?

Challenge: If you gave an account to God right now, what would be in that account?

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-30