

# ACCEPTING AND RESPECTING PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT CONVICTIONS AND BELIEFS

Select Passages • August 26, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

August 19, 2007 .....	“God’s Word to His Church”
August 26, 2007 .....	“Accepting and Respecting People with Different Convictions and Beliefs”
September 2, 2007 .....	“A Biblical Perspective on Church Structure and Organization”
September 9, 2007 .....	“Simple Church”
September 16, 2007 .....	“Partnering with God to Accomplish Big Things”
September 23, 2007 .....	“Doing Church Together—God’s Way”



**Galatians 5:14-15 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

**Romans 14:1-15:7 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. <sup>2</sup>For instance, one person believes it’s all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don’t. And those who don’t eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord’s help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. <sup>6</sup>Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For we don’t live for ourselves or die for ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, it’s to honor the Lord. And if we die, it’s to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead. <sup>10</sup>So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For the Scriptures say, “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the LORD, ‘every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God.’ ” <sup>12</sup>Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. <sup>13</sup>So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a

*There will always be disagreements among followers of Christ in the Church about things.*

### A Foundational Principle:

There are black and white issues in the Bible and there are issues that are not black and white or not talked about at all in the Bible. When an issue is black and white and the Bible clearly states that something is sinful, we must \_\_\_\_\_ on that issue for any reason.

Examples:

### Five Principles From Romans 14:1-15:7:

- 1) We should focus our attention on making sure we are \_\_\_\_\_ instead of worrying about whether the actions of others are pleasing to the Lord.
  - ✓ See Romans 14:4, Romans 14:10-13
- 2) It is possible to have \_\_\_\_\_ about something and still love and honor the Lord.
  - ✓ See Romans 14:5-6



**Otterbein Church & Ministry Center**  
801 Park Street • Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, 17268 • Rev. Michael Newman, Senior Pastor  
*Helping People Look Biblically at the Real Issues of Life!*

CDs and DVDs of this message are available by contacting the church office at 717-762-7147 or info@otterbeinchurch.org or online at www.otterbeinchurch.org

way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. <sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. <sup>15</sup>And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup>Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. <sup>17</sup>For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. <sup>19</sup>So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. <sup>20</sup>Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. <sup>21</sup>It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. <sup>22</sup>You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. <sup>23</sup>But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning. <sup>1</sup>We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." <sup>4</sup>Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. <sup>5</sup>May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

***If people like Martin Luther, John Calvin,  
and John Wesley couldn't agree on everything,  
we can accept the reality that we won't  
always agree on everything either.***

- 3) If you believe something is \_\_\_\_\_,  
you should not do it even if other followers of Christ are doing it and  
tell you that they think it is okay.  
✓ See Romans 14:23
- 4) We need to make sure our actions do not \_\_\_\_\_  
the spiritual journey of others.  
✓ See Romans 14:13-15, Romans 14:20-21
- 5) God is \_\_\_\_\_ and followers of Christ are  
better able to worship and serve God when they are working to-  
gether and living in \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.  
✓ See Romans 15:5-7

## How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

**Believe** that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

**Acknowledge** your sins and ask God to forgive you.

**Submit** yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

**Express** your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

**[www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)**



**Otterbein Church & Ministry Center**  
801 Park Street • Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, 17268 • Rev. Michael Newman, Senior Pastor  
**Helping People Look Biblically at the Real Issues of Life!**

CDs and DVDs of this message are available by contacting the church office at 717-762-7147 or [info@otterbeinchurch.org](mailto:info@otterbeinchurch.org) or online at [www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)