

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE STRONG AND THE WEAK IN THE FAITH**  
**Romans 14:13b-15:13 / July 20**

**I) WELCOME THE WEAK IN THE FAITH (14:1-13a)**

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

- 1) The Weak and the Strong are Both Welcomed by God (2-3)
- 2) The Weak and the Strong Both Serve the Same Lord (4-9)
- 3) The Weak and the Strong Are Brothers (10a)
- 4) The Weak and the Strong Will Both Stand Before God's Judgment Seat (14:10b-13a)

**II) DO NOT HINDER THE WEAK IN THE FAITH (14:13b-23)**

but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. (14:13b)

**1) The Weak and the Strong are Brothers for whom Christ Died (14:14-16)**

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love.

By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

**2) The Weak and the Strong are Members of the Kingdom of God (14:17-21)**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

- So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
- Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.
- It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

**3) The Weak and the Strong Should Trust God and Not Judge Each Other (14:22-23)**

The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God.

Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**III) ENCOURAGE THE WEAK IN THE FAITH FOR THEIR GOOD (15:1-13)**

- We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and
- not to please ourselves.
- Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (15:1-2)

## 1) Because Christ Did Not Please Himself (15:3-4)

For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written,  
“The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” (Psalm 69:9)  
For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- 1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.
- 2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.
- 3 I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.
- 4 More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause;  
mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies.  
What I did not steal must I now restore?
- 5 O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.
- 6 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord God of hosts;  
let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.
- 7 For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.
- 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
- 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.
- 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.
- 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me. (Psalm 69:1-12)

## 2) Because Christ is the Way to United Worship (15:5-6)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 3) Because Christ Welcomed You for God's Glory (15:7)

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

## 4) Because Christ Became a Servant to the Jews and the Gentiles (15:8-13)

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” (Psalm 18:49)

**A Psalm of David, the Servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord, who rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:**

- 1 I love you, O Lord, my strength.
- 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
- 4 The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;
- 5 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.
- 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.
- 46 The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation—
- 47 the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me,
- 48 who rescued me from my enemies; yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from the man of violence.
- 49 **For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name.**

And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” (Deut 32:43)

31:30 Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

- 1 “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
- 2 May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew,  
like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.
- 3 For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!
- 4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.  
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- 5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and  
twisted generation.
- 6 Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people?  
Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?
- 7 Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations;  
ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.
- 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind,  
he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.
- 9 But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.
- 43 **“Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods,**  
for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries.  
He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land.”

And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” (Psalm 117)

- 1 **Praise the Lord, all nations!**  
**Extol him, all peoples!**
- 2 For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117)

And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” (Isaiah 11:1-9)

- 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the  
Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:1-9)
- 10 **In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire,** and his resting  
place shall be glorious.
- 11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from  
Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the  
sea.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.