

LESSON 12

LIVING FOR EACH OTHER

ROMANS 14:1—15:13



1 When were you judged unfairly? How did you feel? How did this affect your relationship with the person who judged you?

2 Think of a time when you hurt someone by something you did or said. What were the immediate and long-term results?



Read Romans 14:1—15:13 and the following notes:

- ☐ 14:1 ☐ 14:1ff ☐ 14:2 ☐ 14:10–12 ☐ 14:13 ☐ 14:13ff ☐ 14:20, 21
☐ 14:23 ☐ 15:2

3 Why was it important for the Roman Christians to stay out of arguments over certain matters of faith and practice?

4 What were, and are, the essentials of faith and practice about which there should be no compromise?

5 What does it mean to be weak in faith?

6 List some issues that cause division in the church at large. Are these issues in your own church as well? How might these be handled better?



7 What does it mean to do everything “to the Lord” (14:4)? What does such a commitment demand of the believer?

8 Why is the stronger believer responsible to change his or her behavior so as not to offend the weaker brother or sister?

9 Christian fellowship and biblical truth are both important sources of hope and encouragement for believers. What is the unique role of each, and why are both necessary?

Dependent, independent, interdependent—how would you describe your experience in relating with other Christians? When we are weak, we are dependent, relying on others and needing their encouragement. But when we are strong, we tend to live on our own, feeling as though we need no one. But Paul challenges us to grow beyond thinking “I can do it myself.” Instead, we should be interdependent, living for each other. Interdependence may be demonstrated in a variety of ways. Handling our differences in a way that strengthens each other is one. Meeting the needs of each other through material gifts, spiritual encouragement, and prayer are others. When we live for each other, we become more than fellow believers; we become a family. And that is what God desires us to be.



10 What steps can a church take to work through differences of opinion?

11 Why is it difficult to suppress our own point of view in order to help those who are weaker in the faith?

12 What is the difference between living for the good of others and living to please others?

13 What should we try to achieve in our relationships with other Christians?

14 How does mutual caring in relationships give us hope and peace?

15 How can you be more sensitive in your personal relationships?

16 What are some areas in which you have Christian freedom but need to exercise more restraint? What are you prepared to sacrifice for the sake of others?



A What do you think will happen when we stand before God's judgment seat? How will the experience of believers and nonbelievers differ?

B How should Christians handle situations where opinions differ about what conduct is right?

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