

**What do we do?
Accept Each other
*Romans 14:1-12***

A 'Strong Christian' is one who is mature enough to understand God's Word AND to be understanding to other believers.

A "Weak Christian" is one who does not have deep understanding of the faith, AND how to live out their faith.

All believers (both strong and weak) should receive all other believers because:

- 1) God Receives Each Believer. *1 Timothy 4:1-5, Romans 14:3*
- 2) The Lord Sustains Each Believer. *Romans 14:4*
- 3) The Lord Is Sovereign to Each Believer. *Romans 14:5-9*
- 4) The Lord alone will condemn each believer. *Romans 14:10-12*

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Accept Each other
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"Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

"We are not the only Christians, but we desire to be Christians only."

"We have no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, no name but the name Christian."

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Romans 14:1 NLT Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

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A 'Strong Christian' is one who is mature enough to understand God's Word AND to be understanding to other believers.

A "Weak Christian' is one who does not have deep understanding of the faith, AND how to live out their faith.

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The issues in described in these verses are not about doctrine, but about personal preferences based on the strength or weakness of the individual's faith in the gospel.

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Romans 14:2-3 NLT For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. ³ 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.

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.

Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't, because God has accepted those who don't eat certain foods.

And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted the ones who eat anything.

All believers (both strong and weak) should receive all other believers because:

1) God Receives Each Believer.

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1 Timothy 4:1-5 NLT Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. ² These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. ³ They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth. ⁴ Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. ⁵ For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer.

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Romans 14:3 NLT 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.

NASB The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

ESV Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

NIV But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone.

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**Believe as I believe,
No more, no less;
That I am right,
And no one else, confess;
Feel as I feel,
Think only as I think;
Eat what I eat,
And drink but what I drink;
Look as I look,
Do always as I do;
Then, and only then,
Will I fellowship with you.**

All believers (both strong and weak) should receive all other believers because:

2) The Lord Sustains Each Believer.

Romans 14:4 NLT Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive His approval.

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All believers (both strong and weak) should receive all other believers because:

3) The Lord Is Sovereign to Each Believer.

Romans 14:5-9 NLT 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

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Do not compromise your own conscience in order to conform to the conscience of another believer

AND

Do not attempt to lead another believer to compromise their conscience to conform to yours.

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All believers (both strong and weak) should receive all other believers because:

4) The Lord alone will condemn each believer.

Romans 14:10-12 NLT 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. ¹¹ For the Scriptures say, “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bend to Me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God.’” ¹² Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God

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I would rather accept someone God has rejected, than to reject someone God has accepted.

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