

Vision for our Vineyard : To Experience God and to Help People

Notes on Romans 14 Message

ACCEPT, not fix each other. A church community accepting of people is a happy place. The things that separate us most of the time are not big issues. A healthy and healing community keeps small issues small.

• 14:1-3 "Accept Christians who are weak in the faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.God has accepted them."

•14:17 "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."

•Psalm 133 "How wonderful! How pleasant where brothers live together in harmony...for there the Lord commands blessing—even life forever more."

WEAK IN FAITH means that people are not able to receive the full blessings of God on their life because they focus on what's wrong with themselves and each other.

THE LORD'S POWER. Jesus is the fixer.

He came to bring rest to our souls. Matthew 11:28 He knows our hearts. He is not judgmental. He bore and took away our grief and sorrows—our sins and guilt, fears and self-rejection. He is the hope. He is the one who can change from the inside out. We answer to him, not each other.

• 14:4 "Who are you to condemn God's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him tell them whether they are right or wrong. The Lord's power will help them do as they should."

GET ALONG IS OUR PART • 14:19-22

"So let's agree to **use all our energy in getting along** with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. You're certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to **wreck God's work among you**, are you? I said it before, and I'll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and **send them sprawling**. When you sit down to a meal, your primary concern should not be to feed your own face but to **share the life of Jesus**. So be sensitive and courteous to the others who are eating. Don't eat or say or do things that might interfere with the **free exchange of love**. Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others." Message Bible