

The Truth That Transforms: The Book Of Romans
“How To Have Grace-Filled Relationships”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 14, 2021

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

We Can Enjoy Grace-Filled Relationships When We:

1. Value Relationships Above Disagreements

- **In Non-essential Beliefs — we have Freedom.**

“Accept him whose **faith** is weak, without passing judgment on **disputable matters**. One man's faith allows him to **eat everything**, but another man, whose faith is weak, **eats only vegetables**. The man who eats everything must not **look down** on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must **not condemn** the man who does, for **God has accepted him**. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for **the Lord is able to make him stand.**” **Romans 14:1-4 (NIV)**

- **In Essential Beliefs — we have Unity.**

“For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he **appeared** to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NIV)

“There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” **Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)**

- For a more complete list of what we believe go to www.cornerstonepoway.com

Notes: _____

2. Respect Each Other’s Conscience

“One man considers one **day** more sacred than another; another man considers **every day** alike. Each one should be fully **convinced in his own mind**. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who **eats meat**, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For **none of us lives to himself alone** and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, **we belong to the Lord.**” **Romans 14:5-8 (NIV)**

For this very reason, **Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.** You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or **why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.** It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Romans 14:9-12 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Protect Each Other's Weaknesses

Therefore let us **stop passing judgment** on one another. Instead, make up your mind **not to put any stumbling block** or obstacle in your brother's way. As one who is in the Lord Jesus, **I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself.** But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are **no longer acting in love.** Do not by your eating **destroy your brother for whom Christ died.** Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil." **Romans 14:13-16 (NIV)**

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Let us therefore **make every effort** to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.** All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else **to stumble.** It is better not to **eat meat or drink wine** or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. **So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.** Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin.**"

Romans 14:17-23 (NIV)

Notes: _____

- Is there some freedom I need set aside to help someone grow closer to God?

My next right step, I will:

- Value my relationships above my opinions
- Respect where people are in their walk with Jesus
- Set aside a freedom to protect someone who is struggling
- Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism November 21, 2021

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

Open your group with a prayer.

Icebreaker: What rules, if any, did your family have growing up that you don’t adhere to now?

We Can Enjoy Grace-Filled Relationships When We:

1. Value Relationships Above Disagreements

- **In Non-essential Beliefs — we have Freedom.**

Read Romans 14:1-4

What disputable matters divide the church today?

When it comes to gray areas, how do you react to those with strict convictions?

Those with more lenient convictions?

What would Paul’s challenge be to you?

- **In Essential Beliefs — we have Unity.**

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

What does Paul say is first importance?

Why is this so important?

What other issues are essential beliefs that our church holds to?

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2. Respect Each Other's Conscience

Read Romans 14:5-12

What was different between Jews and Greeks in their culture growing up?

How can Christians be so different in their belief of food and drink and still have unity in the church?

As time has passed, how has your sensitivity changed to things you once felt strongly?

3. Protect Each Other's Weaknesses

Read Romans 14:13-16

What should be our main guideline to determine what we do or say in front of another believer?

Read Romans 14:17-23

What should characterize the church? V.17

By instructing the Romans not to judge one another, does Paul mean we should never judge between right and wrong where others are concerned?

Why or why not? Give an example.

What active step can you take to build up others in your church?

When has your freedom been a stumbling block to others?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.
