

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Romans 14:1-12. In what ways do you think that this passage suggests that the Romans were judging one another and what is Paul's chief argument in this section for accepting one another (See verse 4)
2. Read Romans 14:13-23. What principles does this passage give for maintaining peace among its original hearers? What were the believers told to do with their differences?
3. Read Romans 15:1-12. "The Christ event," reflects Paul's convictions ethically in almost everything. How does the work of Christ get used in this section to encourage the Roman Christians toward mutual acceptance despite their differences?

B. Meditation & application

4. How does the idea of God being our judge speak to you about how you should view others in God's family? What disputable matters divide people within the church today and how does the fact that God alone is judge speak into those? Do you think it is ever right to make judgements about others? If so how does this fit with this part of scripture?
5. How can we pursue what leads to peace and mutual edification in our church setting? What issues create tension and difference of opinion in the church and how does Romans 14:13-23 speak practically into those?
6. How does the "Christ event," effect the way that we relate to one another within the church? What does the fact that Christ accepts all kinds of people on the basis of "faith in Christ," reveal to us about how we are to treat others? How could you personally grow in this area of accepting others?

Dear heavenly Father- Thankyou for sending Christ to bring peace between- not only us and yourself but between us and one another. In Jesus Name- Amen.