

Sept 28, 2008



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## DO NOT JUDGE ONE ANOTHER

### ROM 14:1-13; 15:5-6

The take-home message from today's lesson is relational. Dozens of verses address how we in the body should treat each other. Jesus words in John 13:35 make it clear: **brotherly love is not a suggestion, it's our trademark. This love requires us to put our fellow Christian's best interest in front of our own.** God values unity. The Father, Son, and Spirit live in perfect unity. We are created to live in harmony with each other. Unity is not about uniformity, agreeing on every minute point. It's about holding one another in the highest respect and helping each other grow in God's grace. Today's lesson will convict us of that. When it comes to judging, criticism, rebuke, or discipline, *a Christian must carefully consider what he or she says and does in the light of **three key principles.*** The first principle is found in Romans 2: **one must not judge using a "double standard."** It is wrong for me to censure a brother or sister in Christ for a particular action if I am engaging in the same kind of behavior myself (Romans 2:1). The second principle is that **anything that is spoken to a wayward brother or sister must be done in the interest of restoring that person to fruitful service** (Galatians 6:1). And the third principle is that **our opposition to a particular action must be grounded in the teaching of Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Parents face similar issues with their children all the time. If we who are parents desired to correct every childish mistake, we would have to be full-time shadows. We would end up robbing a child of the opportunity to learn through experience. And we would risk bringing up a child who becomes a duplicate of us, not his or her own person, and not necessarily what God created him or her to be. Generally speaking, with children we have to "choose our battles." We must stand firm on the issues that are truly important, those that relate primarily to what God has clearly defined as right and wrong. **When it comes to confrontation within the body of Christ, we must also, in a sense, "choose our battles." Or, to be more accurate, we must let God choose them.** Sin cannot be glossed over and ignored. It hurts the sinner and the body of Christ as a whole too much to let that happen. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul describes a situation that the church in Corinth had to address. A man was treating his father's wife as though she were his wife, which clearly broke God's law. In such a case discipline had to be applied. On the other hand, matters of opinion are not in the same category as the precepts that God has set; matters of opinion are issues of individual conscience. We must not allow such as these to become causes of division in the body of Christ. Each of us must be sparing with judgments and unsparing with love.

In the lesson taken from Romans 2, we discussed God's judgment and some issues concerning our judging of others. Today's lesson continues our study of the concluding portion of Romans where Paul examines the practical side of our walk with Christ. It is a continuation of what it means to "present your bodies as living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1). We have examined some of what Paul says in Romans 12 about those attitudes and actions that strengthen the fellowship in the church and the church's witness in the world. In Romans 13 Paul considers the topic of a Christian's duty to civil authorities. He refers to the "governing authorities" as "established by God" (v. 1) and to the person in civil authority as a "God's servant" (vv. 4, 6). Living by the principles of Christian conduct outlined in chapter 12 constitutes a witness to a person in authority: "Do what is right and he will commend you" (Romans 13:3). The chapter concludes with exhortations such as "put aside the deeds of darkness" (v. 12), "put on the armor of light" (v. 12), "behave decently" (v. 13), and "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 14). In today's lesson, which is primarily from Romans 14, we consider another aspect of life in the church. The topic is disagreements among Christians over what may be termed "nonessentials."

*(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

### Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
07/13	All Have Sinned	1:16-20; 3:9-20
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith Pt 1	5:1-21
08/10	Justified By Faith Pt 2	5:1-21
08/17	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/24	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/31	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
09/07	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/14	Responsible Citizens Pt 1	13:1-14
09/21	Responsible Citizens Pt 2	13
<b>09/28</b>	<b>Do Not Judge</b>	<b>14:1-15:6</b>
10/05	Review & Summary	

### Food for Thought

**Want to be close to God?**

**Be HONEST to Him.**

*O LORD, do not your eyes  
look for truth?...*

**Jeremiah 5:3a NIV**

*(shared by a Class Member)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### INSTEAD OF JUDGING, ACCEPT THE WEAK (ROM 14:1-4)

#### *By considering the weak (vs 1-2)*

- Consider the weak by having regard for them (Ps 41:1)
- Consider the weak by defending them (Ps 82:3-4)
- Consider the weak by praying for them (Matt 26:41)
- Consider the weak by encouraging and helping them (1 Thess 5:14)
- Consider the weak by saying to them to be strong because God will help (Isa 35:3-4)
- Consider the weak by not being a stumbling block (Rom 14:19-21)
- Consider the weak by bearing with them (Rom 15:1)
- Consider the weak by not exercising freedom at their expense (1 Cor 8:9-12)

#### *By considering God (vs 3-4)*

- Accept the weak by considering God chooses the weak (1 Cor 1:27)
- Accept the weak by considering God does not show favoritism (Acts 10:34-35)
- Accept the weak by considering God makes no distinction (Acts 15:7-9)
- Accept the weak by considering God lifts up the humble and weak (Luke 18:9-14)
- Accept the weak by considering God gives strength to the weak (Isa 40:29)

### INSTEAD OF JUDGING, ABSTAIN FROM CRITICISM (ROM 14:5-9)

#### *Criticism of special days (vs 5-6)*

- Abstain from criticism because it may lure some back into being enslaved (Gal 4:9-10)
- Abstain from criticism because earthly things are only a shadow of the reality in Jesus (Col 2:16-17)
- Abstain from criticism because each one should be convinced of the truth of God's word (2 Tim 3:14-15)
- Abstain from criticism because God expects us to help others not criticize them (Isa 58:5-7)
- Abstain from criticism because God does the strengthening and convicting of those who have been carried away by strange teachings (Heb 13:9)

#### *All should do things God's way (vs 7-9)*

- Do things God's way because everything else is worthless (Acts 20:24)
- Do things God's way because man's way is futile, but God's way is for all (1 Cor 3:21-23)
- Do things God's way because we have an obligation to do so (Rom 8:12-14)
- Do things God's way to become slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:16)
- Do things God's way because God is able (Dan 3:16-18)
- Do things God's way because there is a reward (Rev 2:26)
- Do things God's way because man's way leads to death (Prov 14:12)
- Do things God's way because only God's way is straight (Prov 3:5-6)

### INSTEAD OF JUDGING, AWAIT GOD'S JUDGMENT (ROM 14:10-13)

#### *All will be judged (vs 10)*

- Man is destined to face judgment (Heb 9:27)
- The whole world is accountable to God (Rom 3:19)
- All must appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10)
- All works will be judged (1 Cor 3:11-15)
- There will be the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:12)
- Those who live by the law will be judged by the law (Rom 2:12)
- Every deed will be judged (Eccl 12:14)

#### *All will confess (vs 11-12)*

- One day all must confess Jesus as Lord (Phil 2:10-11)
- All Christians should confess their sins to each other and pray for each other (James 5:16)
- Confession of Jesus as Lord leads to salvation (Rom 10:9-10)
- Confession of sins to God leads to forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- Confession and not hiding of sins helps relieve the guilt of sin (Ps 32:5)
- Confession along with repentance leads to healing (2 Chron 7:14)
- Confession and not concealing leads to mercy (Prov 28:13)

#### *All should be careful (vs 13)*

- Be careful to lead a blameless life (Ps 101:2)
- Be careful to consider my ways (Hag 1:5)
- Be careful not to be burdened with the anxieties of life (Luke 21:34-36)
- Be careful to do what is right (Rom 12:17)
- Be careful of pride (1 Cor 10:12)
- Be careful how I live (Eph 5:15)
- Be careful of drifting away from God (Heb 2:1)

### INSTEAD OF JUDGING, AFFIRM ONE ANOTHER (ROM 15:5-6)

#### *By being like-minded (vs 5)*

- Like-minded through a God empowered singleness of heart and action (Jer 32:39)
- Like-minded in harmony and humbleness (Rom 12:16)
- Like-minded through agreement and unity (1 Cor 1:10)
- Like-minded through living in peace (2 Cor 13:11)
- Like-minded by conducting oneself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil 1:27)
- Like-minded in being considerate of the interests of others (Phil 2:2-4)
- Like-minded in love (1 Peter 3:8-10)
- Like-minded by seeking an attitude like Jesus (Phil 2:5)

#### *By glorifying God in unity (vs 6)*

- Glorifying God is part of praise and worship (Ps 34:3)
- All Christians should glorify God by the good lives they live (1 Peter 2:12)
- Sometimes sickness is used so that God might be glorified (John 11:4)
- One of the final times God will be glorified is when Jesus comes back and glorifies Himself in His Church (2 Thess 1:10)
- Jesus prayed that we experience and exhibit God's glory (John 17:24)
- God's glory should be evident in our transformed lives (2 Cor 3:18)
- God should be glorified by letting our Christian lights shine in the darkness of the world (2 Cor 4:6)