

## CEC Bible Study: Romans

Session 8: Romans 14 – 15  
Discussion Leader: Griffin King  
Sept. 23, 2020  
Christ Episcopal Church

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Opening Question: How should churches deal with differences within their congregations?

### Romans 14: Embracing Difference within the Church

- Do not quarrel, but embrace difference and remember that God is judge of all ([14:1–12](#))
- The “weak” vs. the “strong” ([14:1–4](#))
  - Paul uses similar rhetoric in [1 Cor. 8:1–13](#).
  - “Strong”: Eating anything ([14:2](#))
    - “Weak”: Eating only vegetables
  - “Strong”: Observing the Lord’s Day on Sunday ([14:5–6](#))
    - “Weak”: Observing the Sabbath on Friday/Saturday (or vice-versa?)
  - Paul counts himself among the “strong” ([14:14](#), [15:1](#), compare [1 Cor. 8:4](#))
    - AND YET: “If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love.” ([14:15](#), [20–21](#), compare [1 Cor. 8:7–13](#))
  - Be careful not to let your “strength” become a moral weakness ([14:16](#))
- Since all are judged and all receive grace equally in Christ, so we ought not judge one another ([14:10–12](#)).
  - Dispensing with individualism: “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves...” ([14:7–8](#))
  - The work of the Church is “peace and mutual building-up,” even among differences ([14:19](#))
- Righteousness of an action based on one’s conviction? ([14:22–23](#))
  - Martin Luther: “If you’re going to sin, *sin boldly*.”<sup>1</sup>

### Romans 15

- “Strong” vs. “weak,” cont’d ([15:1–6](#))
- “Welcome one another”: The Gospel belongs to both Jews and gentiles ([15:7–13](#))
  - “As it is written...”: Rapid-fire scripture references
    - [Rom. 15:9](#) ([2 Sam. 22:50](#))
    - [Rom. 15:10](#) ([Deut. 32:43](#))
    - [Rom. 15:11](#) ([Ps. 117:1](#))
    - [Rom. 15:12](#) ([Isa. 11:1, 10](#))
- Benediction/Conclusion of Moral Exhortation (*parenthesis*) section ([15:13](#))
- Summary and purpose for writing the letter ([15:14–21](#))
- A Final Personal Note ([15:22–33](#))
  - Paul’s desire to visit Rome on his way to Spain ([15:22–24](#))
  - The “Ministry to the Saints”: The Jerusalem Collection ([15:25–29](#))
  - Paul requests prayers that his collection may be acceptable to the Jerusalem church ([15:30–32](#))

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<sup>1</sup> “Be a sinner, and sin boldly, but trust in Christ even more boldly, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.” — Martin Luther, in a letter to Philip Melanchthon, Aug. 1, 1521.