



LIFE GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 4: “A CHURCH OF EMPATHISERS”
ROMANS 14:1-

(Romans 14:1-15:7)

Sermon Summary from Pastor Sam:

Paul addresses an issue in the Roman church surrounding Jewish Christians, who won't eat meat or drink wine and Gentile Christians who will eat everything. In order to avoid segregation in the church, Paul encourages each group, though different from one another, to draw in each other just as Christ drew them in. To do this, they needed to see each other as people, not opinions- not tolerate anything, but recalibrate their lives for one another (especially for the weaker Christians) and to keep the main thing the main thing.

Sermon Questions:

1. In verse 1 of chapter 14 Paul asks the more mature Christians to “draw in” (translated welcome/accept) those who are weaker in the faith and not get caught up in disputable matters. The opposite of drawing someone in is segregating from them. With so much segregation in the world, how might we as a church *draw in* those who are different from us?
2. How important is it to see each other at CBC as people, not simply walking and talking opinions? How might you do this (i.e. listening, entering into their world through empathy)?
3. Our culture deals with differences through promoting “tolerance” – but tolerance only goes so far, it does not actually deal with our differences. Paul clearly rejects tolerating any idea that is floating around. In 14:14 he takes the side of the Greek Christians. Yet he specifically asks the Greek Christians (who are right), to recalibrate their whole lifestyle so not to put a stumbling block in the path of the weaker Christians. How does this differ from simply tolerating each other? How might you seek to not put a stumbling block in another brother or sister's path?
4. Paul insists that the Kingdom of God is more than simply eating and drinking. This is about making the main things the main things. How has Covid shifted seemingly insignificant things in our Christian faith to the ultimate things?