

4. Read Galatians 2:11-14 and Colossians 2:16-23. These are just two examples of “mama bear” Paul. What seems to be the difference between what’s going on in Romans 14-15 and what was going on in those passages?
  
5. Paul seems to see the “weak in faith” as being on a journey to maturity. He want to give them room to grow, he gives them room to grow without being lambasted and judged for their immaturity. Why is this an important perspective when it comes to the fellowship of believers?
  
6. Why might Paul and Jesus recoil at the thought of this passage being used to protect the status quo?
  
7. Standing up for the truth or standing against injustice while following Paul’s instructions in 2 Timothy 2:24-26 is very difficult. How does this passage apply to your life?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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The Fellowship of the Gospel (A Series on Romans 12-16)  
 “Unity and Its Limits”  
 Romans 14:1-15:13

Paul calls church members to love and accept one another and seek unity even while holding differing \_\_\_\_\_. But as we move beyond our passage we see that while there are no limits to love, there are limits to unity.

### **The Call to Accept and Love One Another Even When We Disagree**

It’s hard to \_\_\_\_\_ exactly what one of the sides believes and why they believe what they believe.

Don’t read \_\_\_\_\_ concerns into why some abstained from meat and wine.

- “Accept one another...without quarreling...” (14:1)
- “The one who...must not treat with contempt the who does not...” (14:3a)
- “The one who does not...must not judge the one who does...” (14:3b)
- “Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind” (14:5)
- “Stop passing judgment on one another” (14:13a)
- “Make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister” (14:13b)
- “If your brother our sister is distressed because of what you...you are no longer acting in love” (14:15)
- “Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (14:19)
- “It is better not to...that will cause your brother or sister to fall” (14:21)
- “We who are...ought to bear with the failings of...and not to please ourselves” (15:1a)
- “...build them up” (15:1b)
- “...so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify...” (15:6) -
- “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you” (15:7)

Audit your own \_\_\_\_\_ to edify and live at peace with those with whom you disagree (Romans 12:18; 14:19).

## More Going On Than Meets the Eye

- “\_\_\_\_\_ Matters” (contrast Galatians 2:11-21; Colossians 2:16-23)  
Paul doesn’t leave much room for more than one \_\_\_\_\_ on these issues.
- “Weak” and “\_\_\_\_\_” (14:1-2; 15:1)
- “Here are my \_\_\_\_\_ on this matter, but keep yours to yourself” (14:22)
- “Stumbling block,” “obstacle,” “distressed,” “\_\_\_\_\_” (14:13-15)

## Misunderstandings of this Passage

- This is not about \_\_\_\_\_ someone.
- This is not about keeping the peace by supporting the \_\_\_\_\_ or giving in to the lowest common denominator.  
  
He publicly opposes their position and subverts it, but he gives them room to grow without being lambasted and judged for their \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Limits of Unity

- When the people he calls “weak in faith” have power and impose their view on everyone else, Paul \_\_\_\_\_ into a mama bear protecting her cubs. (Galatians 1-3)
- Jesus was constantly \_\_\_\_\_ the religious authorities when their rules conflicted with the work of the gospel.
- Give the immature \_\_\_\_\_ to grow, but don’t give in to people who should know better.

## Make Every Effort

2 Timothy 3:1-5 vs. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

2 Timothy 2: <sup>24</sup> And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone.... <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Romans 14:1-15:13. How would you summarize in five points or less the kinds of things Paul calls them to that were listed in the first point of the sermon (see the outline)?
3. What is the evidence that there is much more going on than what meets the eye or can be determined from our vantage point?