

2021.04.18 Sunday Sermon <For the Weak>

Romans 5:6,8

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 14:1-4

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Romans chapter 14 was written by Apostle Paul and he specifically talks about the weak vs. the strong. He compares the weak to those who eat vegetables only, and compares the strong to those who eat meat. When Paul mentions the "weak," he is referring to both physical and moral weakness. Let us look at today's message through three key images.

1. Do Not Despise <Image: Thumbs Down>

Whether you are White, Black, or Asian...the Lord tells us we are all equal and we should not despise others.

- **Romans 14:3**

³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

- **Isaiah 42:3**

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

Look at the result of what happened during WWII, when Japan and German took control over other countries.

- **Proverbs 14:21**

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.

Even within the church, we sometimes look down on those who may not know the bible in detail. We may even comment on those who do not pray well in public. No matter what the reasons maybe, we should not despise / look down on others.

2. Accept <Image: Hands United>

As Paul continues in his letters, as God and Jesus accepted us, we also need to accept others.

- **Romans 14:1**

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

- **Romans 14:3**

³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

The Lord understood those who were weak and empathized them. So who are we to look down on the weak?

- **Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Nowadays, we see so many news about the rise in Asian hate crimes. Recently, there was a news about man throwing acid on Pakistan woman. There is a saying, "hatred is like acid." Just as the Lord accepted on the weak, we to need accept others. There is another saying, "hating is like burning your own house to kill a rat."

We as humans tend to generalize. If one black person did something wrong, we generalize and say the entire black community is that way. If a crime was made by one Asian, we tend to look at the Asian community in a negative light. But we all know that due to one incident or one crime, we cannot generalize the entire community.

This is what Jesus Christ said to accept others and not judge.

- **Matthew 7:2**

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

We do not know what will happen tomorrow. Just as the Lord and Jesus accepted us, we need to accept others.

3. Help <Image: Helping Hand>

As we look at this image, it shows the young helping to elderly.

- **Romans 15:1**

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

Let's look at how Jesus Christ helped those who were weak.

- **Matthew 8:3 (Man with Leprosy)**

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

- **Mark 1:31 (Healing Peter's Mother In-Law)**

So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

- **1 Corinthians 8:9 (Jesus Helps the Weak)**

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

Jesus rewards those who accept and helps the weak.

- **Matthew 10:42**

And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

If you treat the weak negatively, you are treating Jesus in the same way.

- **Matthew 25:40**

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Little babies have to put bibs on when they are eating. Adults may put on an apron while serving or eating. Pastor Rick Warren said, "Take off the bib and put on an apron" to those immature adults.

As we look at today's message and scripture (Roman 14), let us look our past and surrounding. Are we the immature adults hurting the weak? If so, we need to accept and help the weak.

*Who is My Jesus?
Mourners' comforter is He
He is plenty for the needy
Height for all of low degree
He is the freedom of the captive
and our joy eternally.*

*Who is My Jesus?
Strength for Weak
Light and vision for the blind
He is healing for the ailing
Health of body, soul and mind
For the dead he's Resurrection
And in Him our life we find*

In Summary

Jesus Christ is sending the following message to all of us..

- Do not despise the weak
- Accept the weak
- Help the weak