**Stop Passing Judgment on One Another**

**The Word**

Read together Romans 14

**The Big Idea**

In disputable matters where two Bible-believing Christians might disagree, Paul calls us to develop personal convictions but to stop passing judgment on one another and interact with one another in ways that build each other up.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What stands out to you most as you consider Paul’s perspective in this passage?

2. As you consider this passage, what might God’s invitation be to you personally in terms of how you are navigating the current issues we are facing? (examples might include: diving deeper into learning more about an issue, reaching out to specific people on these issues, reconsidering your tone and spirit with some of these issues, etc.)

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. This summer we are exploring the “one anothers” in Scripture as a way of considering what it means to be the church together, especially in these challenging times. The “one another” of today’s passage is in v. 13.

II. Today’s passage is about how to interact with one another on “disputable matters” (v. 1)

* Disputable matters = things that are not at the heart of the gospel that two Bible-believing Christians can legitimately disagree on
* In Paul’s original context, the disputable matters concerned the challenges of Jews and Gentiles living together as part of the same church for the first time (Should one eat kosher food (v. 2) and observe special days like Sabbath (v. 5))
* In our context today, we are being confronted with many “disputable matters” (how should the government respond to covid, how should churches respond, what are people’s personal protocol sensibilities, how can we best engage this conversation on race, etc.)

III. Paul gives us three principles for how to engage one another on disputable matters

A. Develop personal convictions on these matters

* Paul doesn’t say to ignore these issues since they’re not gospel essentials, rather he says each person should pursue these issues and develop their own convictions: “Each should be fully convinced in their own mind” (v. 5)
* There is a degree of flexibility and subjectivity for people to arrive at different personal convictions on these issues according to their individual conscience (v. 14)

B. Stop passing judgment on one another on these matters (v. 13)

* We can speak into each other’s lives and engage one another on these issues, but we shouldn’t have a posture of superiority or judgment towards each other
* We are not their master, Jesus is (v. 4)
* Jesus died for them and has forgiveness for them, so we shouldn’t judge someone whom Christ has forgiven (v. 15)

C. Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification (v. 19)

* Consider how to engage one another on these disputable matters in ways that build people up and lead to unity and mutual understanding