



THE HEALTHY CHURCH

- DEALING WITH
 - DIFFERENCES
 - LIKABILITY
 - CONFLICT



HOW SHOULD WE TREAT OTHERS WHEN OPINIONS DIFFERS?

- Romans 14 (NIV)
- **14** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling 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.

Romans 14 (NIV)



- ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

Romans 14 (NIV)



- ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.
- ¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.

Romans 14 (NIV)



- ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.
- ¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.
- ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

Romans 14 (NIV)



- ¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.



It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

(Audre Lorde)