

BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday, May 31, 2026
Pastor Jonathan Armstrong

Big Idea: Strong Christian communities distinguish between essential truth and personal preference.

Acts 2:44 — And all that believed were together, and had all things common.

Romans 14 teaches us that healthy Christian community is not maintained because everyone thinks alike.

It is maintained because everyone has the same heart posture: love God and love others.

Text: Romans 14:1-4; 19-20

1. Cling Tightly To What Matters Most

Romans 14:19 — Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Acts 2:44 — All that believed were together, and had all things common.

They weren't united because they agreed on every preference. They were united because they agreed on what mattered most.

"Not every hill is worth dying on. Choose your battles wisely."

Core Doctrinal Truths

- 1) The Trinity — One God eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus is fully God.
- 2) The Humanity of Christ — Jesus became fully man through the virgin birth. Yet, He remained fully God.
- 3) The Death and Resurrection of Christ — Jesus died for our sins and physically rose again.
- 4) Justification by Faith in Christ — We are saved by God's grace through exclusive faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- 5) The Authority of Scripture — The Bible is God's inspired and final authority for faith and practice.

The longer we're Christians, the easier it becomes to elevate preferences into essentials.

But Paul reminds us — Not every disagreement is a doctrinal crisis.

2. Extend Grace in Areas That Matter Less

Romans 14:3 — *Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not...*

Paul says mature believers should refuse two temptations:

- Despising — Looking down on others
- Judging — Condemning others

Proverbs 13:10 — *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

“We desire to win the argument rather than win the relationship.”

Many relationships don’t end because of major doctrinal differences. They end because pride refuses to extend grace.

3. Pursue Restoration When Unity Is Threatened

Romans 14:19 — *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace...*

Peace doesn’t happen accidentally.

Proverbs 27:5-6 — *Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*

“Confrontation is not the enemy of intimacy.” People who truly care about a relationship are willing to have difficult conversations.

When Do We Confront?

- Is it Sin? — Confront lovingly.
- Is it Doctrine? — Clarify carefully.
- Is it Preference? — Extend grace generously.

Strong Christian communities are not built by people who agree on everything. They are built by people who love one another enough to give grace where grace is needed and stand firm where truth demands it.