

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

Hold Loosely: Preferences, Opinions, and Convictions

Romans 14

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As we continue our series on *Holding Things Loosely*, we are reminded from Scripture of the need to hold loosely our opinions, preferences, and even our personal convictions.

Commands:

Convictions:

Preferences/Opinions:

Background to Romans 14: Ethnic and cultural differences in the early church led to clashes over matters of personal conviction.

Those who are “weak in faith” – Not a disparaging term nor meant to question the reality of their faith in Christ, but rather weakness in terms of their application of that faith to some matters of daily life.

Welcome one another, and not for the purpose of judging his/her opinions (14:1-4)

Honor and submit to the same Lord (14:5-9)

Do not tempt or exhort your brother/sister to do something that he/she has doubts about (14:22-23)

Strive to use differences as opportunities to produce righteousness, peace, joy, and mutual edification (4:17-19)

The law of love must govern how we hold preferences and convictions (4:15)

Questions to Consider

1. Be honest – what's the most recent encounter you recall in which you ended up in some measure of conflict over an opinion or preference that you were holding tightly?
2. What's an example of a clear biblical command? What's an example of a personal conviction that you hold that you infer from Scripture?
3. What do we know about the person in Romans 14 who is "weak in faith"? Does this mean there's something deficient about their faith in the gospel, or does it mean something different?
4. Some are "weak in faith" and some are "strong" (Romans 15:1). Scripture doesn't use those terms to disparage or exalt people. What are some of the responsibilities of those who are strong to those who are weak? And vice versa?
5. What are some areas of preference that can cause disunity between believers in Jesus Christ?
6. Have you wrongly judged another believer for ways in which they apply their faith in everyday life? What can you do instead to build that person up?
7. If you're tempted to do something that you think may be sin, but you're not sure, what should you do and why?