

Group Leader Guide-Mar 2 2025

Sermon Recap

Romans 14:1-12; Philemon 17; Acts 28:2; John 14:3

Pastor Alex focuses on the theme of accepting and welcoming others within the church, particularly when it comes to secondary issues that can lead to conflict. He emphasizes that both the strong and weak in faith should refrain from passing judgment on one another, as each believer ultimately belongs to God and will be held accountable to Him. Through examples such as dietary practices and observing certain days, he illustrates how preferences should not divide the church, promoting the idea that it's ultimately about honoring the Lord together. The sermon calls for self-reflection, urging individuals to foster unity and love, rather than allowing trivial disagreements to undermine the church's mission.

Quotes

- Loving kindness, grace, and welcoming goes a long way for helping each other grow in the Lord. This removes unnecessary hurdles in fellowship and allows us to live for the Lord and with each other more genuinely. - Pastor Alex

Discussion Questions

In what ways can we support those who have a weaker faith, as mentioned by Pastor Alex?

- Pastor Alex encourages us to love and accept others, especially those who might struggle with certain beliefs or practices.
- How can you actively support a friend or family member who is facing challenges in their faith?

What does it mean to 'welcome' someone in the context of differing opinions within the church?

- In the sermon, Pastor Alex talks about welcoming those who are weak in faith and what that truly looks like, emphasizing genuine acceptance rather than mere tolerance.
- How can you practice welcoming someone who has a different opinion or belief than you in your own life or community?

Why is it important to distinguish between primary and secondary issues in our beliefs?

- Pastor Alex mentions that there are core issues like the divinity of Jesus, Christ being the only way to the Father, clear sin issues specifically addressed in scripture, etc our understanding of these clear truths should unite us, while secondary issues, nature of spiritual gifts, abstaining from alcohol, etc may lead to unnecessary conflict.
- Can you think of a time when a secondary issue created tension in a relationship? How did you handle it?

According to Romans 14:4, why shouldn't we pass judgment on others within the church?

- Pastor Alex emphasizes that everyone is accountable to God and that we should not interfere in that relationship by judging others about non-essential matters.
- Have you ever felt judged for your beliefs or practices? How did that experience affect you and your faith?

What role does gratitude play in how we accept others with differing opinions?

- Pastor Alex mentions that whether we eat, or observe special days, we should do so in honor of the Lord and give thanks.
- How can practicing gratitude change the way you view or interact with someone who disagrees with you on non-essential issues?
- This also acts as practical test in our pursuit of the Lord. 1. Can I thank for God this 2. Can I do this unto the Lord? Regarding secondary issues, the goal is the same between the weak and the strong - to love and honour the Lord who is over all - to thank him for what has been given and give him honour by what they are pursuing.

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests first.
- Pray for God's guidance in accepting and loving others, especially those with different opinions.
- Ask God to help us seek unity in the church, focusing on what binds us together rather than what divides us.
- Pray for strength to practice selflessness and compromise in relationships with fellow believers.

Rewatch the sermon

<https://www.youtube.com/live/mnmoifja48>