

Group Leader Guide-Mar 9 2025

Sermon Recap

Romans 14:14-23; Matthew 18:6-7; 1 Peter 2:16; Philippians 2:6-8; Romans 8:23

Pastor Alex encourages the church to embrace unity and love by avoiding judgment over secondary issues, as highlighted in Romans. He emphasizes the importance of accepting one another, regardless of differences in personal convictions, and prioritizing the well-being of fellow believers. The freedom we have in Christ should lead us to serve others rather than indulge ourselves, fostering an environment of mutual support and encouragement. Ultimately, by focusing on the core principles of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, we can strengthen our community and reflect the love of Christ to those around us.

Quotes

"Let the renewed mind lead in love & set yourselves to not put a stumbling block or hinderance in the way of a brother." ~ Pastor Alex

"At the same time, alongside this explicit instruction not to violate our conscience, there is an implicit requirement to educate it." ~ John Stott

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to 'walk in love' toward others, especially those who may have different beliefs or practices than you?

- Pastor Alex talked about how we should not judge or despise each other, but instead make conscious efforts to walk in love, especially toward those we consider weaker in faith.
- Can you think of a situation where you had to limit your own preferences for the sake of someone else? How did that make you feel?

Why do you think Paul emphasized the importance of avoiding stumbling blocks in our actions toward others?

- Pastor Alex highlighted how Paul encourages believers to recognize that we should not do anything that might hinder another person's faith or walk with God.
- Have you ever felt like your actions unintentionally caused someone else to struggle in their faith? How can we be more aware of our impact on others?

In Romans 14:17, Paul writes that the kingdom of God is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. How do these elements relate to our relationships with one another?

- Pastor Alex mentioned that pursuing peace and mutual uplift is key for believers and ties into the larger theme of living out the kingdom of God.
- Which of these elements—righteousness, peace, or joy—do you think is the easiest to pursue in your relationships, and which one is the hardest? Why?

How can we create an environment where everyone feels accepted and valued, regardless of their differences in opinion or practice?

- Pastor Alex discussed the need for unity among believers, emphasizing that we should accept one another as God has accepted us.
- What specific steps can you take to ensure that your friend group or community is inclusive and builds each other up?

Pastor Alex mentioned the idea of choosing to limit one's freedom for the sake of others. What does this look like in real life?

- The sermon addressed how the stronger in faith should limit their freedom to love and serve the weaker, rather than just doing what they want.
- Can you think of an example in your life where you chose to give up something for the benefit of a friend or loved one? What was the outcome?

Prayer

- Ask God to help us practice love and acceptance towards one another this week.
- Request prayer for any specific struggles with judgment or acceptance in our relationships.
- Pray for the courage to limit our freedoms when it may help uplift others.
- Ask God for wisdom in navigating secondary issues within our community.

Rewatch the Sermon

<https://www.youtube.com/live/FV0z6w2wWjI>