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| **Romans 14:1-8 New International Version (NIV)**The Weak and the Strong14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. 2One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3The 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. 4Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.5One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6Whoever 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. 7For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*This is an excellent passage for dealing with conflict. Even if you are not necessarily arguing with someone about the way they do things, or why they do things, you may be just ‘thinking’ it. This passage reminds us that they do what they do for God. It may be different to what we do, but it is still in the name of the Lord and we should accept them for that. The passage goes on……………….* |  | **Romans 14:10-12 New International Version (NIV)**10You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A+10+-+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28291a)]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. 11It is written:“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,‘every knee will bow before me;    every tongue will acknowledge God.’”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A+10+-+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28292b)]12So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*So if we are to be accountable to God there is no point in us judging other people. This isn’t so easy to do sometimes when we feel frustrated that others don’t ‘do’ or ‘think’ like we do. The passage goes on ………………………..***Romans 14:17-19 New International Version (NIV)**17For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.19Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*So the ultimate goal in this passage is to make ‘EVERY EFFORT’ to do what leads to peace. So no grumbling when people behave differently to us, and remember God loves them as much as he loves us. The passage goes on …………………………* |

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| **Romans 15:1-7 New International Version (NIV)**15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. 3For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” 4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.5May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.7Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*The passages so far highlight dealing with conflict in our thoughts. Here are some passages to deal with our conflicts in actions: Matt 5: 23-24; Matt 18: 15-20; Gal 6: 1-5.**The main emphasis is about resolving conflicts with the person, not talking about them behind their back. It’s a good policy to adopt, albeit challenging.* *Another good piece of advice is to be:** *quick to listen - James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13;*
* *slow to judge – Romans 2:1-4; Galatians 5: 22-26*
* *willing to negotiate – Acts 15; Philippians 2: 1-11*

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