

UNITY IN CHRIST

Introduction – The Jewish believers of the first century would have considered themselves to be stronger spiritually than the Gentiles who were new to the way of the Lord. The Messianic Jews knew their Bible and had lived its principles since childhood.

A. The strong may really be the weak.

Romans 14:1-4

1. Matters of opinion were the source of quarreling in the congregation at Rome.
2. The conservative Jews who wanted to insist on following the kosher food laws were characterized as weak in faith.
3. The more conservative brethren tend to have a judgmental spirit.
4. The more liberal brethren tend to have a contemptuous attitude toward the more conservative position on the issue.
5. We must remember that we are all the Lord's servants. It is not our role to judge each other.

B. Another issue but the same conflict.

Romans 14:5-9

1. The Jews regarded the Sabbath day and special festival days as sacred.
2. Follow your own convictions, but remember to do so to honor God.
3. Brethren on both sides of an issue belong to the Lord. He alone can save them.

C. Ultimately we are accountable to God and not one another.

Romans 14:10-12

1. Our attitudes are more important than our position on disputable issues.
2. We must all appear before God's judgment seat to give an individual account.

Conclusion – The issues change over time. We must not get caught up in the latest issues and forget to show mutual respect for one another. This is the only way we can maintain unity in Christ.