

A photograph of a church steeple with a clock face, set against a dramatic, cloudy sky with warm, orange and yellow tones. The steeple is white with a dark roof and a clock face. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a sunrise or sunset.

**“13 Reminders as We  
Prepare to Regather”**

**Romans 14:1-15:7**

# Warren Wiersbe, *Who Am I?*

“Unity and diversity must work together or one will destroy the other. Unity without diversity is uniformity, but diversity without unity is anarchy.”





# Psalm 133

*<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and pleasant it is when  
brothers dwell in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like the  
precious oil on the head, running down on  
the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running  
down on the collar of his robes! <sup>3</sup> It is like the  
dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains  
of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded  
the blessing, life forevermore.*



# Who These Sermons Are For

1. The person ready for all kinds of physical contact and resuming what has been “normal”
2. The person who won't be back until there is a vaccine
3. Everyone in between those extremes





# The Context of Romans 14

- A church planted by persecuted Christians from Jerusalem
- Made up of Jews and Gentiles
- Paul wrote to...
  - 1) Introduce himself as an apostle
  - 2) Remind them of the Gospel
  - 3) Teach theology and its application



# More on the Context of Romans 14

- Theme: the righteousness of God





# Outline of the Epistle to the Romans

- I. The Theme of Romans (1:1-17)
- II. The Theology of Romans (1:18-11:36)
  - A. Man is condemned (1:18-3:20).
  - B. Man can be justified (3:21-5:21).
  - C. Man will be sanctified (6:1-8:39).
  - D. Man will be restored (9:1-11:36).
- III. The Application of Romans (12:1-16:27)



# More on the Context of Romans 14

- Theme: the righteousness of God
- The cause for division in the church was food and special days of celebration.





# The Key Point

When we are together, it's not about you.



# 13 Reminders as We Regather

1. Remember the difference between opinion and absolutes (vs. 1-2).





# What Is the Conscience?

- The way one measures a strong Christian and a weak Christian has to do with the conscience.
- Conscience: the Christian's warning system; a radar for morality
- Our conscience bears witness to what is in our hearts (Romans 2:14-15).



# John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*

“The conscience entreats us to do what we believe is right and restrains us from doing what we believe is wrong. The conscience is not to be equated with the voice of God or the law of God. It is a human faculty that judges our actions and thoughts by the light of the highest standard we perceive. When we violate our conscience, it condemns us, ...





# John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*

“...triggering feelings of shame, anguish, regret, consternation, anxiety, disgrace, and even fear. When we follow our conscience, it commands us, bringing joy, serenity, self-respect, well-being, and gladness.”



# Opinions vs. Absolutes

- Opinion: a view or judgment formed about something; not necessarily based on fact or knowledge





# Opinions vs. Absolutes

- Opinion: a view or judgment formed about something; not necessarily based on fact or knowledge
- Absolute: a value or principle which is regarded as universally valid



# The Key Point

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# 13 Reminders as We Regather

1. Remember the difference between opinion and absolutes (vs. 1-2).
2. Remember to value those who differ from you (vs. 3).



# Galatians 2:11-13

*<sup>11</sup> But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.*

*<sup>12</sup> For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. <sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*





# James 1:19

*...let every person be quick to hear, slow to  
speak, slow to anger;*



# The Key Point

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# 13 Reminders as We Regather

1. Remember the difference between opinion and absolutes (vs. 1-2).
2. Remember to value those who differ from you (vs. 3).
3. Remember that God is the ultimate Judge (vs. 4).



## Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich*

“It is encouraging to know that our success in the Christian life does not depend on the opinions or attitudes of other Christians. God is the Judge, and He is able to make us stand.

The word ‘servant’ here suggests that Christians ought to be busy working for the Lord; then they will not have the time or ...





# Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich*

“... inclination to judge or condemn other Christians. People who are busy winning souls to Christ have more important things to do than to investigate the lives of the saints!”



# 13 Reminders as We Regather

1. Remember the difference between opinion and absolutes (vs. 1-2).
2. Remember to value those who differ from you (vs. 3).
3. Remember that God is the ultimate Judge (vs. 4).
4. Remember that your conviction are YOUR convictions (vs. 5).





# A 5-Step Process for Forming Convictions

1. Allow others to have a different view.
2. Commit yourself to learn their view.
3. Study their view from different angles and sources.
4. Test their view against God's Word.
5. Arrive at an informed conviction.



# Warren Wiersbe, *How to Be a Caring Christian*

“I fear we have too many ‘junior gods’ running around today, taking the place of God in the lives of others. Some weak Christians seemingly cannot do a thing unless they check with somebody. It is good to have guidance from mature believers, but God says that Jesus is Lord. Please don’t let any person take the place of God in your life.”





# The Key Point

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