SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

**	Paul dealt with two issues of difference in the church at Rome. He addressed "diets" and "days." What group in the church was most likely the "weak" mentioned in (Rom. 14:1) who abstained from meat and observed special days? What group in the church was most likely the "strong" mentioned in (Rom. 15:1) who ate meat and viewed all days alike? Which group was Paul a part of according to (Rom. 15:1) which group was Paul a part of? What group would a long-time Gentile proselyte be a part of?
**	So there were differences in the church at Rome. But were these differences matters of moral absolutes, doctrinal certainties, or gospel essence? YES / NO We refer to these faith-filled, reasoned conclusions apart from license or legalism as differences over "non" What do you think are some of the issues of difference over non-essentials in our day?
**	According to (Rom. 14:1), how should we treat fellow believers who are different regarding non-essentials? According to (Rom. 14:3) what is the temptation of the strong toward the weak? What is the temptation of the weak toward the strong? What are some specific ways that you struggle on both sides of the fence?
**	Think about the great difference between you and God. What greater polarity exists? We are diametrically different, and yet according to (Rom. 14:3) "God has " us. God spans the chasm of difference between us and him, and calls on us (through the power of the Spirit) to span the difference between ourselves and other believers. We need to accept one another because God accepts us. Who do you need to accept? Will you commit to praying about it and asking God to help you?

May the Lord apply his grace to your life as you seek to live right in light of the time, Pastor Lukus

TODAY'S NOTES & TEXT

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to guarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God: for it is written. "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:1-12 ESV)