

# Romans 14:20 – 15:7

## Acceptance



**Vs. 20,21** – A message to gentiles.

Sin, by this definition is not necessarily just the act of wrongdoing, but sin can be a simple violation of conscience, even if the act of wrongdoing is not actually wrong to do. It is wrong to violate your conscience!



**Vs. 22,23** - Don't flaunt your freedoms! Don't make a point of rubbing salt in the wound! On the other hand, to those on the other side of the debate – stop passing judgment!

The God-blessed person can be “unblessed” if they are doing the Devil's work for him – destroying, disrupting, causing concern and angst!



**Angst:** feelings of anxiety, fear, or unease, often over something trivial.

**Vs. 23 – “...condemned... because... his eating is not from faith...”**

The definition of sin is widened here. It is sin to, in the back of your mind, fear whether a thing is wrong to do, and yet go ahead with doing it.



A deep faith in Christ rests upon the fact that Christ is enough! He alone saves! We can't supplement Him!

**[Ecclesiastes 7:16-18]**

# 15:1,2 – “*We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak*”

The strong in faith have their priorities right. The last thing we want is to be the cause of someone else’s downfall. So we often do not exercise our rights.



## James 4:17 – “...*to him it is sin*”

It is also a sin to know a thing is the **right** thing to do and yet let it go undone. (sin of omission/sin of procrastination/ sin of good intentions)



**Vs. 3** – The example - “...*even Christ...*”



## **THE CONSISTENT THEME**

**[Ph’p. 2:1-16]**

**[Eph. 2:11-22]**

**[Gal. 5:13-15; 22-26]**

**[Col. 3:9-17]**

## Vs. 4 – Examples and injunctions of Scripture

Listen and learn – God compiled this for you ! It is His “word”! He intends to give us a body of information that, *if learned*, will *encourage* us with the knowledge that we are not the first to undergo the trials, difficulties, or resistance we are presently experiencing. And the scriptures help us persevere (“*endurance*”). Perseverance is all about course corrections. When we are off course, (which is frequently), the scriptures are our “true north”.



**[2 Tim. 3:16]**



**Vs. 5** - Both the scriptures and God Himself “give”  
“**endurance**” and “*encouragement*”.

Always, the scriptures and the Person of God (the Holy Spirit) encourage, rebuke, provoke, push the people of God. Unity comes with actually, authentically, loving each other with agape love! It comes with finally “getting” the family bonds /connection that tie the body of Christ together!



**Vs. 5 cont.** – God – “...*endurance and encouragement...*”

- ~He tests to strengthen
- ~He pushes us that we might grow, rising to the occasion.

If we need to learn to love, He gives us someone hard to love, forgive, understand, accept...

- ~He carries us when we think we cannot go on



**ME**



**GOD**

**Vs. 6** – The goal is to bring authentic glory and praise to God - our Savior, Teacher, and Sovereign Leader  
Satan says to God “*Prove it*” (Job)

**We** are His proof!!!! By the attitude we maintain and the way we treat each other, we either bring glory or anti-glory to God! We build His reputation or we tear it down!



**Vs. 7** – How can I accept someone that I possibly don't even like, with whom I find little common ground?

**Jesus!**