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Week 38: Grace in Action (Romans 14:1-23)

Introduction:

James 4:1 "What causes fights and quarrels among you?"

Review:

Romans 12:1-8 – Love _____ (through spiritual gifts)

Romans 12:9-21 – Love is _____ (without hypocrisy)

Romans 13:1-7 – Love _____ (to governing authorities)

Romans 13:8-14 – Love _____ (investing in the debt of love)

Unity is a big deal to Jesus (John 17:22-23)

Grace in Action: Four Ways to Apply It from Romans 14

We know we are applying grace when...

Verses 1-4

The "weak" are _____ and the "strong" are _____

Verses 5-9

We care about _____ over _____

Verses 10-12

We _____ people knowing they are _____ to God

Verses 13-23

Our _____ in Christ is being guided by _____ for one another

The Big Idea:

When grace is applied to relationships, we experience freedom! Freedom from license to sin and addiction – and freedom from the legalism of rules, regulations and religious rituals.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. Describe a time when you felt judged or condemned by other Christians because of a choice you made that you didn't feel was sinful for you...

Ponderings:

2. A few decades ago, some of the Christian "taboos" included things like dancing, playing cards, any form of alcohol, going to movies, going to the beach, etc. What are some current "taboos" and why do you believe them to be "grey areas?"
3. Do you agree with the statement that the greatest cause of conflict in most relationships is the desire to change or control the other person(s)? Explain why or why not...
4. **1 Corinthians 10:25-31** is a great parallel passage to Romans 14. Read the passage together and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - In what ways is this passage similar to Romans 14? In what ways is it different?
 - What does this passage tell us about our freedom to either abstain or engage, depending on the circumstance?
 - What if every believer lived in light of verse 31? How would the church look today if all was done "for the glory of God?"

Promptings:

5. Is there a person in your life that you need to stop judging in grey areas or disputable matters? On the other hand, is there anyone whose conscience you may be offending by not allowing love to guide your liberty? Share as honestly as possible and purpose to make a change in the week ahead by God's grace...