



*“The Just Shall Live by Faith!”
The Apostle Paul
Romans 1:17*

**The Just Shall Live by Faith
“The Behavior Between Believers” part one
Romans 14:1-23**

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Paul repeated two words in his prison epistles that described the kind of Church God could use to reflect the true nature of Jesus Christ into a community.

- **Unity** – the unity of the faith – Ephesians 4:3ff
- **Purity** – the removal of sin – Matthew 18ff
 - If the spiritual leaders do not deal with sin personally and privately, God will deal with it corporately.
- **In Romans 1-II**, the Apostle Paul defined how all Christians are just sinners saved by God’s grace alone, through their faith alone, and in Christ alone.
- In Roman 12:1-2, Paul said the Christian’s reasonable response to God’s gift of grace is to:
 - Lay our lives before the Lord as “living sacrifices” to the One who saved us from an eternity in hell.
 - Not conform our lives to the systems of the world, but rather be transformed by the renewing of our minds

through the persistent and consistent study of the Scriptures.

- **In Romans 12:3ff**, Paul gave a series of commands and exhortations regarding the purity within the Church body.



Inner circle – our relationship with God.

Second circle – our relationship with other believers

Third circle – our relationship with unbelievers

Outer circle – our relationship with the enemies of the cross

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- **In Romans 13**, Paul said the believer is to **submit to the governing authorities** and to live exemplary lives before unbelievers so as to prove the power of the gospel.

- Romans 13:14: ***“Put on the Lord, Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.”***

- **Romans 14:1-23** – Behavior Between Believers –

- When it comes to “getting along” within the family, Paul’s admonition is to: **“pursue the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”** – vs 19
- **Receive the weaker brother** – vs 1-4
 - **Do not despise or condemn the weaker brother**, for he does not have to answer to any other man, but to God.
- **Stand firm in your own convictions** – vs 5-9
 - Do not violate your own conscience just to befriend the weaker brother.
 - We all are under the watchful eye of Jesus Christ.
 - We all belong to Jesus Christ, having been purchased by His death and His resurrection.
- **Leave the judgement up to God** – vs 10-12
 - Everyone will be judged by Christ.
 - Every knee will bow before Christ.
 - Everyone shall give an account of himself to God.
- **Judge our own behavior only** – vs 13-21
 - Walk in compassion, being careful not to offend those who are weak.
 - Walk in love, being careful to accept the weaker brother where he is.

- Pursue peace with the weaker brother, and build one another up.
- Do nothing to cause the weaker brother to stumble or to discount the work of God in his life.
- **Watch your own life before God** – vs 22-23
 - Be true to your own convictions.
 - Be true to your own conscience.
- **Make sure God approves your behavior.**

Resolved:

**“I will act so, in every respect, as I think I shall wish I had done,
if I should at last be damned.”**

Johnathan Edwards