

**“The Grace Pursuit (9): Transformed by Grace
– Dealing with Controversial Issues” (Romans 14:1-15:2)**

Last Message: Forgiveness

**Today: How to Handle Controversial Views, Convictions and Practices...
Must Christians All Agree on All Issues at All Time?**

I. Why are there Controversies?

1. The Sin Nature in Us: Pride and Jealousy
2. Different, but Legitimate Views on Ministry: Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41)
3. Traditions, Upbringing, Social Pressure, Personality and Personal Experience
4. Maturity Level of Believers’ Faith (Romans 14:1)

**Most Issues in Life Fall in the Gray Zone,
and Grace Operates in the Gray Zone to Create Harmony and Unity**

II. How to Deal with Controversies (Romans 14:1-15:2)

1. Accept Those who Hold Different Views from You
 - a. Be Considerate for the “Weak in Faith” (14:1-3)
 - b. Accept those whom God has Accepted (14:5-8)
 - c. Do Not Criticize God’s Servants (14:4, 10)
2. To the “Weak”: Transform Your Paradigm – be Teachable (14:14, 22-23)

Personal Conviction or Personal Preference?

Insisting that others conforming to “My Way” is not Grace, but Legalism!

3. To the “Strong”: Give Up Your Own Preferences (14:13; 15:1-2)

**God’s Kingdom is not about Me and My Agenda,
but the Welfare of the Church, and God’s Purpose**

Reflection:

- Let Grace be the Operating Principle in the Gray Zone
- Accept One Another, be Teachable; and continue to be Transformed by Grace
- Be Considerate of the Weaker and Younger Fellow Believers in Faith

**Grace Drove Jesus Christ to Give up His Rights;
As we Pursue Grace and Pursue Christ:
Follow His Model and be Known as a Church of Grace**