

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Approach Controversial Issues August 14 & 15, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Since the start of 2021, we've been learning *what* we believe as Christians and *why* we believe it. As we continue our When in Rome series this summer, our focus shifts to *how* we live out what we're learning. When what we believe changes how we live, we experience REAL growth!

Use our Reflection Guide for personal study throughout the week, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your community group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. Keep in mind...*it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Review Romans 14:13-23: Consider reading different translations or paraphrases for perspective.

Reflect/Respond: How were you personally encouraged, instructed or challenged by the message? This could be a word, verse or point that got your attention or got you thinking. What is one way you can cultivate that into your life SO THAT you begin to live out what you're learning?

People > Issues: Differences of opinion are a fact of life, but a sign of growing spiritual maturity is a willingness to look beyond the issue at hand and see the person behind it.

- Reflect on or share a time in your life when someone failed to see or hear you, but instead focused on an issue. How did that make you feel? How did it impact your relationship with that person?
- In contrast, has there been a time when you were so focused on the issue that you didn't take the time to see or hear the person behind it? As you consider the eternal ramifications of your behavior – whether it was directly toward the person or indirectly through your thoughts, words, etc., what can you learn?
- In either of the above scenarios, is there still work to be done SO THAT you restore harmony [Roman 14:19]? If you're not sure, ask God for wisdom and courage to take the next step.

Dig Deeper Read Colossians 3:12-14. What do these verses encourage us to put on as we interact with others? Why are we urged to make allowances for differences of opinion? What is the one thing that unites us and creates harmony? How are you challenged to live out these verses?

Personal Choice: In the face of controversial issues, religion says “what is right/wrong for me is right/wrong for everyone.” However, REAL faith is willing to support, honor and affirm the personal choice of each believer SO THAT we don't tear apart the work God wants to do in our life or in theirs.

- The best offense is a good defense – what are a few things you have done [or could do] to help you stay God centered when facing controversy?
- Romans 14:22 challenges us to keep what we think is right between us and God. What are some practical ways you could cultivate this practice and discipline into your life?
- Invite God to show you if there is anywhere in your life that you're holding onto being right more than being right with God. Ask God to help you humble yourself so that you hear His voice.



Kind Table is Friday, September 10. Set a table in your home for the women in your community and make room at the table for friends, family, coworkers - ANY woman - to taste and see what kindness can do. Share a meal, enjoy content from Sandals Church Women and connect in community. Visit cultivate.sc/kindtable to learn more!