



Sermon Discussion Guide

October 12th, 2025 | Romans 14:13-23 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // Transformed : Romans 12-16

Summary

Paul continues urging the church to pursue true righteousness, peace, and joy—qualities rooted not in outward practices but in Christ. The believers were disputing over food and drink, trying to appear righteous through their choices. Paul reminds them that the kingdom of God is not about external works, but about the righteousness given through Jesus. Our desire to be “right” often reveals a deeper longing for righteousness that only Christ can fulfill.

Paul warns that insisting on our freedoms can harm others. By pressuring someone to act against their conscience, we risk causing spiritual damage and shame. Even if nothing is unclean in itself, it becomes unclean for the one who believes it is. Therefore, those who are strong in faith should willingly set aside their preferences for the sake of others' spiritual well-being. True love seeks to help others become like Jesus, not to make them adopt our personal opinions.

Ultimately, joy is not found in perfectly keeping rules or proving ourselves right, but in what Christ has done for us. The Gospel is not about appearances or credentials—it is an inward transformation of longing to be found in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Longing for Righteousness

- What is the difference between looking righteous and being righteous in the heart?
- In what ways do we, today, still try to “look” righteous before others?
- Paul says our longing to be right reveals a deeper longing for righteousness. Why is it so important to find that righteousness in Jesus rather than in our own works or opinions?

Longing for Peace

- We have freedom in Christ, but not if it hurts someone else. What are examples of things you can do, but maybe shouldn't do around someone with different convictions?
- Why do we often think, "If you don't agree with me, you're wrong"? How does Paul challenge that attitude?
- What does it look like to choose peace in a disagreement, even when you know you're right?

Longing for Joy

- Paul says joy isn't about doing everything perfectly—it's about what Jesus has already done. How does that truth take the pressure off of us?
- What's a situation where you might need to hold back on something you're okay with, in order to respect someone else's beliefs?