

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPACE MAKER

1	What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening or troubling? Please explain.	
2	As you think of dealing with "Imperfect people" as it relates to those who have a different view or perspective than you on a particular topicwhich is the most personally frustrating and why? (could be COVID, political, a theological view or something else)	
3	Read all of Romans 14:1-15:7. Reread 14:1. What is Paul's instruction and what about it is most challenging for you? (e.g. accept? Not judging? Determining disputable matters?)	
4	Accept means more than just co-exist. It actually means to enter into deep fellowship with, showing kindness and love. Regarding people referenced in question 2, do you think this is possible, if not, why not, and is there something that needs to change in you?	
5	Disputable matters can be defined as salvation issues and sins specifically identified in scripture (as opposed to conscience sins). Are there issues that you or others tend to make primary when they should be secondary and vice versa? Does this cause confusion. How might ones "conscience" (which could be sin for an individual) bring more confusion to what actually is an essential or primary issues?	
6	Read Romans 14:3-4. What are ways that we (generally) and you specifically have judged or shown contempt for others on some of the divisive issues you have already talked about?	
7	Read Romans 14:13. What does Paul say our response should be insteadWhy would he say this? When can being "right" actually still put us in the wrong?	
8	Read Romans 15:1-7. If secondary issues need to be second, and people need to be first, what would it look like for you to put a you in front of a view? Especially in the areas of division talked about.	
9	What is an attitude that you need to fight and remove and one you need to add as it relates to the "imperfect people" around you, becoming more of a space maker, rather than a space taker?	

10



HOW TO DEAL WITH IMPERFECT PEOPLE SPACEMAKER

ROMANS 14-15:7

14:1 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. 5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" 12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. 14 I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. 15 If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. 19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

15:1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

MESSAGE NOTES

1	You can be fully	, yet still be in the
2	Have strong personal	but keep them personal. Don't make them for everyone else.
3	Keep	_ issues where they belong
4	Keep	_ where they belong