

WHEN WORKOUTS COLLIDE

Hitting The Faith Gym – Part 2 of 3

1. Learn to accept each other.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man’s faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.” Romans 14:1-2

How to accept somebody involved in non-disputable matters:

- Do I tend to label them?

“Accept them without passing judgment.” Romans 14:1a

- Do I tend to make fun of them?

“The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not...” Romans 14:3a

- Do I attempt to be their conscience?

“...and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.” Romans 14:3b

WHY I MUST ACCEPT THOSE I DISAGREE WITH:

- God has already accepted them.

“...for God has accepted him.” Romans 14:3c
“Accept one another just as Christ has accepted you.” Romans 15:7

- It’s not your responsibility.

“Who are you to judge somebody else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls.” Romans 14:4
“...God knows and judges your motives. He keeps watch on you; he knows. And he will reward you according to what you do.” Proverbs 24:11 (GN)

- We are only accountable to God.

“You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’ So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Romans 14:10-12

2. Learn to accommodate each other.

“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way. As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.

If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.” Romans 14:13-15

Specific ways you can accommodate other believers:

1) Don’t focus on the external, focus on the eternal.

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17

2) Build each other up.

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.” Romans 14:19

3) Grow in love.

“Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean. But it’s wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or to drink wine or do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.” Romans 14:20

3. Assert your freedom in privacy.

“So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.” Romans 14:22

“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. “For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.” Romans 14:5-7

“But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.” Romans 14:23

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves... For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:1, 4-6

All scripture from the New International Version unless otherwise noted