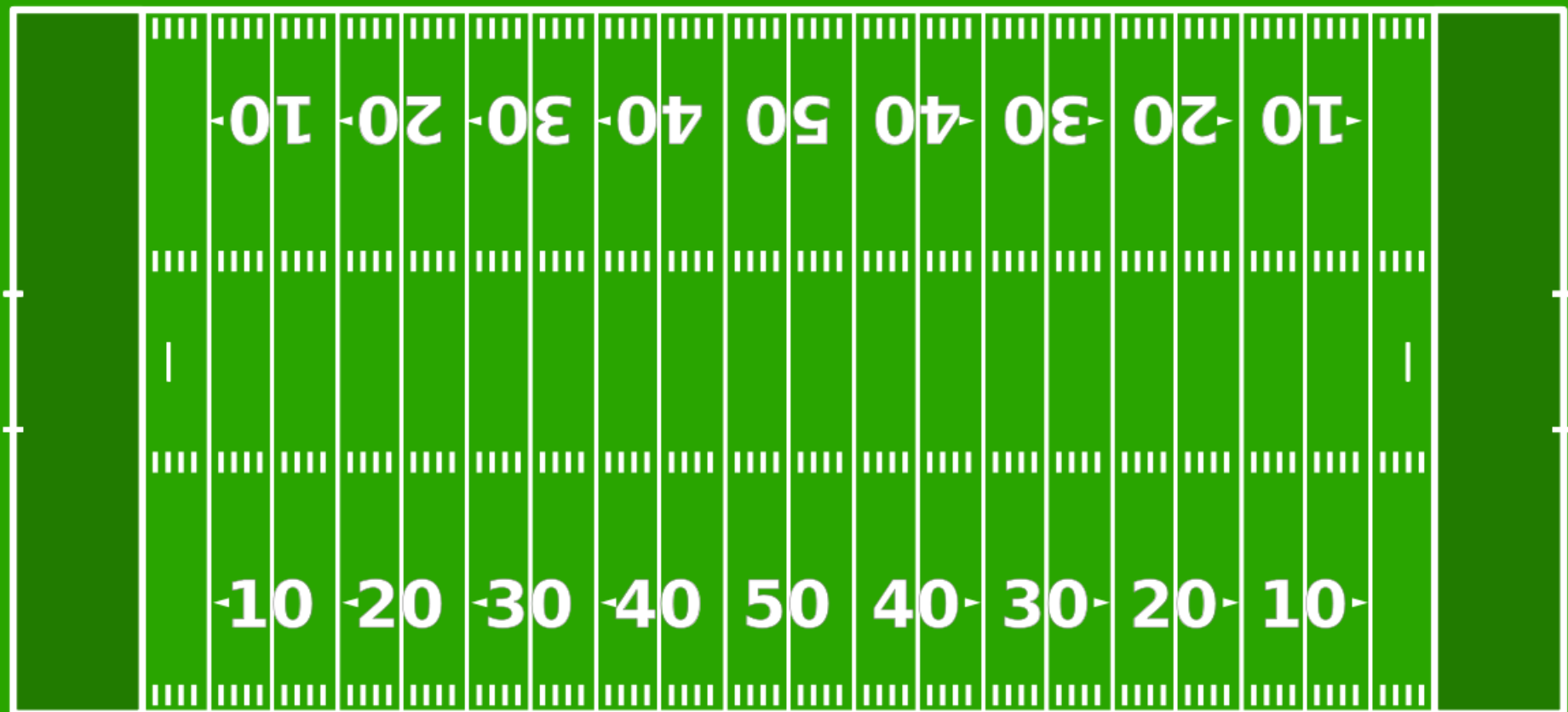


URGENT

CIRCA 1st century
CIRCA ROME



R o m a n s



Convictions:

Biblical: universal

Personal: specific

Disputable Matters

"adiaphora"... "things indifferent"

**What is disputed
is often disputed**

Disputable Matters

Bottom Line:

15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God."

1. Stop judging one another

Rom. 14:1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

2. 14:4-9 You have one master

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 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. 6 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. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to 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.

Col. 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

3. 14:10-12 In the end, God will be God.

10 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. 11 It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

1. Accept one another: 14:1

2. Live your own convictions: 14:12

**3. Don't force personal convictions
on others: 14:22**

Applications

1. Don't draw the field too small or too large.

Deut 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

Prov. 30:6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Applications

2. What happens we cannot agree?

- a. Why is this so important.**
- b. Is this truly foundational?**
- c. At what level can you work together?**
- d. Disagree in a God honoring way.**

2 Tim. 2:23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

Applications

3. Remember the primacy of love

**"Let no debt remain outstanding
except the continuing debt of love."**

Romans 13:8

1Cor. 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

1Cor. 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God — 33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

4. Even if you can do something, should you?

1Cor. 6:12 “Everything is permissible for me” — but not everything is beneficial.

“Everything is permissible for me” — but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food” — but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Love is the measure of maturity

Gal. 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

**Know the truth in order to bless not
to impress**

**Know truth in order to win hearts
not arguments**

**Know truth because Jesus is the
truth**