

“YOU Are Not Alone” - LOVE + LIBERTY
Pastor Harlyn
July 16, 2023 – 180 Church
1 Corinthians 8:1-13 & Romans 15:1-7 (ESV)

<https://heartswithoutborders.net/burundi-partners/>

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 “Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴ Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷ However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”

Romans 15:1-7 “We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

**HOW CAN PEOPLE, WHOSE BELIEFS & PRACTICES OFFEND
EACH OTHER... LIVE TOGETHER?**

Strong / Weak

1 Corinthians 8:7 “However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.”

Romans 15:1 “We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

1 Corinthians 8:4 “Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”

3 Ways to Exclude:

1. Expulsion
2. Subjugation
3. Assimilation

Romans 15:7 “Therefore **welcome** one another as Christ has **welcomed** you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 14:1 “As for the one who is weak in faith, **welcome** him, but not to quarrel over opinions.”

“_____” – “To pull towards you and alongside you. Extending your hand.

Romans 15:1 “We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

1 Corinthians 8:4, 7, 10-11 “Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.”

Romans 15:7 “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

LOOK IN:

1. How do you build others up? What do you bring to the table that's an encouragement to others?
2. How do you create space in your heart and in your life for people who you disagree with?
3. When was the last time you welcomed someone (either into your home or in another way) that you disagreed with? How did that go? If you haven't done that recently, what do you think that could look like?
4. Do you think Jesus agrees with everything you believe right now? How do you respond to Jesus's unconditional love of you exactly where you're at?