

# Embrace, Support, Grow!

Today's Monday Meditations takes a somewhat different turn. I want to use this medium to share something that's been on my heart and mind lately... the Corpath Community.

Before we start, take a moment to think about your response to this question:

**Q:** When you think about "the Corpath community", what ideas come to mind?

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From my perspective, as President in the organization, I have the amazing opportunity to meet with, and talk with, many of our members, moderators and forum groups. And every time I do I leave the connection feeling energized and often humbled by the sincerity and warmth expressed during the interaction. Corpath members really do exhibit the refreshing combination of pursuing excellence while striving to live a God-honouring life.

On top of this thought is the realization that all Corpath members are different. Each member has unique experiences and perspectives regarding what "the pursuit of excellence" means and how it attaches to their personal and professional lives. Our members have unique passions and commitments to core values that have been developed throughout their lives and careers. It's these differences that makes the Corpath Community incredibly diverse and super-valuable.

It's with this in mind that I dive into the important lessons found in **Romans 14** and how they can guide us in building a stronger, more supportive community within the whole Corpath organization, reaching beyond just our particular forum groups.

If you have time, pause now to read **Romans 14** and let it speak to you through the filter of understanding what is required to build a strong community of believers, even at Corpath.

## Embracing Our Differences with Love

There may be times when differences of opinions, perspectives, and perceptions might lead to dissension, and if we aren't careful, these differing views could potentially create division.

In **Romans 14:1**, Paul writes, *"Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters."* Here, Paul emphasizes the importance of accepting one another, even when our beliefs or practices differ. Just as in our diverse personal and business viewpoints, we encounter individuals with varying perspectives, backgrounds, and approaches.

Then, in **Romans 14:3**, Paul reminds us, *"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."* We are called to extend this same grace to our peers, offering support and encouragement even when we don't see eye to eye. Let's continue to commit to explore practical ways we can demonstrate Christ-like love and acceptance in our interactions when we meet together.

## Supporting Each Other in Growth

We all know that running a business can be both rewarding and challenging, often accompanied by moments of triumph and times of struggle. **Romans 14:7** reassures us, *"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone."* Your Corpath group, and the broader community, provides a safe space where members feel comfortable sharing their victories, as well as concerns.

Just as we strive for excellence in our spiritual lives, we also seek to excel in our businesses.

**Romans 14:19** reminds us, *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."* When we come together, we leverage our collective expertise and resources to support one another's professional growth. Our forum groups provide great places for us to explore opportunities for mentorship, skill-sharing, and collaborative projects that empower each member to thrive.

## Pursuing Unity in Christ

I believe it's important that we align our individual aspirations with the overarching mission of our organization, ensuring that we are working together towards the common goal of supporting each other as we pursue Godliness in our personal and professional lives. We agree, as a community, to commit ourselves to fostering unity and harmony with each other within this ministry.

Effective communication is essential for maintaining unity within any group. **Romans 14:19** advises us, *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."* We ensure that every member feels heard, valued, and included. Let's also continue to explore ways to enhance transparency, accessibility, and collaboration within our organization.

Ultimately, we know that our unity as believers is rooted in our shared identity in Christ. **Romans 14:8** reminds us, *"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."* We continually remind each other of this unifying truth, drawing strength and inspiration from our common faith. Let's always be bold in encouraging each another to anchor our lives, our businesses, and our Corpath community in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on these timeless teachings from **Romans 14**, my prayer is that you will be inspired to cultivate and participate in a community characterized by love, acceptance, and mutual support. Together, let's commit to build each other up, spur one another on towards growth, and unite in our shared commitment to honouring God in both our business endeavours and our spiritual lives.

**My PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the wisdom and guidance found in Your Word, especially in *Romans 14*. We ask for Your continued presence and guidance as we seek to build a community rooted in love, acceptance, and mutual support.

May Your spirit guide us in embracing our differences with grace, supporting one another in growth, and pursuing unity in Christ. Strengthen our bonds of fellowship, Lord, and help us to reflect Your love in all that we do.

We commit our organization into Your hands, trusting that You will lead us forward in unity and purpose. May our endeavours bring glory to Your name and blessings to all whom we serve.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

**Steve ShROUT**

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