**Small group notes – Sunday 19 July 2020**

**Welcome**

Discuss Black Lives Matter. How can our better society respond to a history of injustice?

We have been in Romans for several weeks now. What is your favourite thing about the book? What do you find most difficult? Does it have anything to say to Black Lives Matter?

**Worship**

Read Philippians 2:5-11 together

Praise God because “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

**Word (Romans 14:1 to 15:7)**

Discuss your experience of church conflict?

Why does it seem so hard for Christians to remain united?

What characterised the weak party and the strong party in Rome (14:1-9)? Who were they? How do you know?

Identify and discuss modern parallels to the weak and the strong parties in our immediate church community and in the wider church?

What is the difference between the tolerance preached in wider society and Christian tolerance? What are the underlying convictions in each case?

Discuss verse 9 –in what sense does Christ’s death and resurrection establish his Lordship?

Reflect on verses 10-12. Why does Paul bring up the final judgment and quote Isaiah 45:23? What is he getting at and how will it foster mutual acceptance among us?

How do you square Romans 14 (and in particular verses 4, 10 and 13) with 1 Corinthians 5:1-5? What were the circumstances in each case? What do these texts mean for our understanding of Christian freedom? (see also Romans 13:13-14)

How can the strong destroy the weak? (14:13-18) Are there parallels among us?

For Paul, what is the key to Christian living? (Romans 15:1-6, see also Philippians 2:5-11)

What results from mutual acceptance? (15:5-7) Why?

**Prayer**

Pray for our mutual acceptance at NMBC and our resulting witness to the communities from which we come