

# **Romans 14**

## **Romans 14.1-4**

**V1** – How are we to deal with someone who is weaker in the faith? By not passing judgment on that person

**V2** - What example did Paul use? The person who is a vegetarian

-Why might a person be a vegetarian? Health reasons, opposition to killing animals, a desire to be more conscious to environmental problems (pig farms, for example)

**V3** – How should the meat-eaters (carnivores) and the vegetarians treat each other? With respect and without judging

-Why? Because God accepts both lifestyles in his believers

**V4** – Why are we not to judge our brothers and sisters in matters of opinion? We are answerable to Christ, and we are not to judge another master's servants

-We may be our brother's keepers, but not our brother's owners

## **Romans 14.5-9**

**V5** – What is another area where we are not to judge other people? In the celebration of certain days and festivals

-What could this have referred to in the First Century? The celebration of Jewish holidays, such as Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles, Feast of Lights (Hanukkah), Purim, etc.

-What are examples of this principle today? The non-religious celebration of Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Valentine's Day, patriotic holidays, etc.

-But we are not to violate our conscience in celebrating such holidays

**V6** – What principle applies to this principle? We are not to do anything that would be contrary to our understanding of the Gospel of Christ

**V7** – This reminds us of words of John Donne:

“No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.... Any man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Therefore, never send for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee.”

-V 7 teaches that our lives as Christians are interwoven, and we must be respectful of the views of our brothers and sisters in Christ

**V8** – This should remind us of an earlier verse: **Read Romans 12.1**

-We have passed from death into life

**V9** – In all things, Christ is to rule our lives

## **Romans 14.10-12**

**V 10** – What is a danger in such things as holidays and festivals and similar matters? That we start judging our fellow Christians in matters of opinion

**V 11** – Ultimately, God is in control, and we are to honor his wishes that we do not judge one another in matters of opinion

**V 12** – Where else do we have this same idea? *Romans 2.6* – according to his deeds

-Cases where we have to judge people:

-*Matthew 7.15-16 or 23* – False prophets

-*Romans 16.17-18* – Those who cause divisions

-*Philippians 3.1-2* - Evil workers

-**Read John 7.24** - In all things, we are to judge righteously

## **Romans 14.13-23**

**V 13** – Definition of a stumbling block? Something that might not be sinful in itself, but which might lead a weaker Christian astray

-**Read 1 Cor. 8.1-13** – The eating of meat dedicated to an idol

-**Read Romans 14.21** – Drinking wine (in moderation)

-At most congregations today, grape juice is used in the Lord's Supper – **Why not wine?** Because of recovering alcoholics who are usually members of any medium to large size congregation

-So if grape juice meets the requirement of "fruit of the vine," that is what we should use, based on this chapter

**V 14** – Not a general statement, but talking about eating meat and celebrating certain days

**V 15** – *1 Corinthians 8.13 ...I will eat no meat while the world stands* (if it might offend a weaker Christian)

**V 16** – What is the danger on this subject? That something which is allowed by the New Testament might cause an evil result

**V 17** – What do eating and drinking have to do with the Gospel? Nothing (as long as weaker Christians are not led astray)

**V 18** – God approves of our caution concerning weaker Christians and the danger of leading them astray

**V 19** – What major principle does Paul give here? Our goal is to build up the congregation, not tear it down

**V 20** – We are not to tear down the congregation, just so we can exercise our "rights" under the New Covenant

-We are to think about the effect of our actions on the congregation and especially on weaker Christians

**V 21** – **What does Paul recommend concerning the weaker Christian?** That we do not eat meat (offered to idols) and drink wine, if it might cause a weaker Christian to sin and fall back into sin

**V 22** – We are to maintain our convictions and work for the building up of the congregation

**V 23** – **What is always a sin?** To do something that we believe is a sin (whether it actually is or not)

-**The basic principle?** God does not want us to do anything that violate our own conscience, because he considers that to be a sin

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