

Romans 14:1 "Accept a person whose faith is weak" - Two very (42) important take aways: ① Remember what our faith was like, and what it lacked in wisdom, when we first believed and that will help us to build on what they have and ② don't injure their new faith by arguing with them about their faith.

Romans 14:2 I have friends who "abstain" from pork but "partake" in Jesus Christ. My eating pork in front of them is not in keeping with the "Love your neighbor above yourself" mindset, and certainly does nothing for building them up!

Romans 14:3-4 We are "judging" when we look critical on someone else's traditions in worshipping Jesus Christ. We must always remember that we are equal in the Judge's Eyes.

Romans 14:5 Some worship on Sundays, some on Saturdays, and some on Wednesday evenings. All are right! Why? Because God affirmed that day in their hearts. - Same goes with Worship music; What ever music that you sing is correct as long as you are singing it to the Lord and it causes you to feel like you are lifting Him up.

Romans 14:6 Only rule: Does your/my worship lift up the Lord.

Romans 14:7-8 Our lives have been purchased by Jesus' finished work of the cross. We must live, and die, accordingly. In absolutely everything the bottom line is: Did our action glorify us, or did our action glorify God? (Read the Historical account in Luke 16:19-31)

Romans 14:9 The Gospel; Jesus' Death, burial, and resurrection resulted in Him taking back what was lost in The Garden. Jesus is risen, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is the Judge over the living and the dead. (Handout)

Romans 14:10-11 Is a stark warning that only the Lord Jesus can, and will, Judge all that have ever lived at either the Bema seat (Good; that's ours) or at the end of the 1,000 year reign at the Great White Throne Judgement (Bad, Bad, Bad!); this is for all non-believers as described in Revelation 20:11-15

Romans 14:12-15 Don't think that your worship is better than another believer's because of ritual's. verse 15 reminds us that Christ died just as much for them as for us. (Handout)

Romans 14:16-18 repeat of verses 10-15 with a reminder that we only "please" God when we play nice with others who praise Jesus also.

Romans 14:19-21 Again, repeating, "Don't sweat the little stuff" (43)

Romans 14:22: Keep it to yourself. Share your complaints with God. This way He is able to rattle your world and show you by how much you fall short! We should not only keep this in mind when communicating/fellowshipping with other believers but also when dealing with non-believers. Saying, "I would never do that" is almost always going to lead to God allowing Satan, or his minions, to tempt you in just that! And that counts double when you not only profess your disappointment in them in your heart and mind but also let it spew out of your lips. (The thoughts we harbor in our hearts can be fixed, but those that exit our lips can-not be unspoken!) All the Books of God the Son's Manifesto are filled with people who wished they could have taken their words back. Samson, Haman, Pontius Pilate, Job's friends, David with Nathan, The Rich Man who built bigger barns, Herod Antipas, The Jewish leaders who said, "Let His blood...", Korah, Judas, etc, etc.

Romans 14:23: In the same manner; All true believers have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13) and as such if we feel we ought not do something then we absolutely should not do it. Not always easy, but always required. Our faith should keep us focused on what we believe is right. Right down to what we eat.

Chapter 18: God did not take us home the moment we believed on Jesus Christ as Saviour because that was only the very beginning of our race. Jesus used the reference of being "born again" for a very good reason. Just as a baby has not accomplished anything other than showing the beauty of birth and has not contributed anything other than being a "Pampers filler" we too had only just begun when we were born again. And just like the "Dash" on a Cemetery stone which represents the journey between birth and death, our dash consists of our "walk" between being born again and God taking us home. Did we use that time to encourage others who are of the faith, give our testimony to unbelievers, preach sermons without speaking a word, help those in need, learn and grow in Christ, give hope, spread love, exhort others, lead our families in Christ,.....