



# THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

*Salvation by Grace Through Faith*

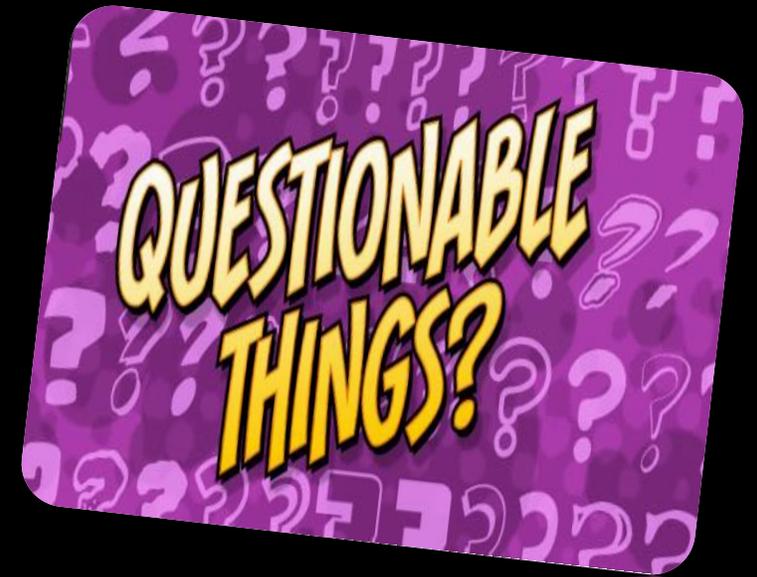
# “DOUBTFUL THINGS” MAY I? SHOULD I

In the Bible, there are things that God clearly tells us to do or not to do.

Romans 14 is not about those things that fall somewhere in the middle.

## Romans 14:1

<sup>1</sup> Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over **doubtful things**.



# CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AND DISCERNMENT

Where God has spoken, the matter is settled! But God has left some issues unsettled to train us for maturity.

## Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.



# WHAT ABOUT...

- May a Christian go to the movies?
- May a Christian consume alcohol?
- May a Christian work on Sunday?
- May a Christian get a tattoo?
- May a Christian listen to secular music?
- May a Christian man have long hair?
- May a Christian woman have short hair or wear pants?
- May a Christian wear jewelry?



# TO DO OR NOT TO DO?

## Romans 14:2-3

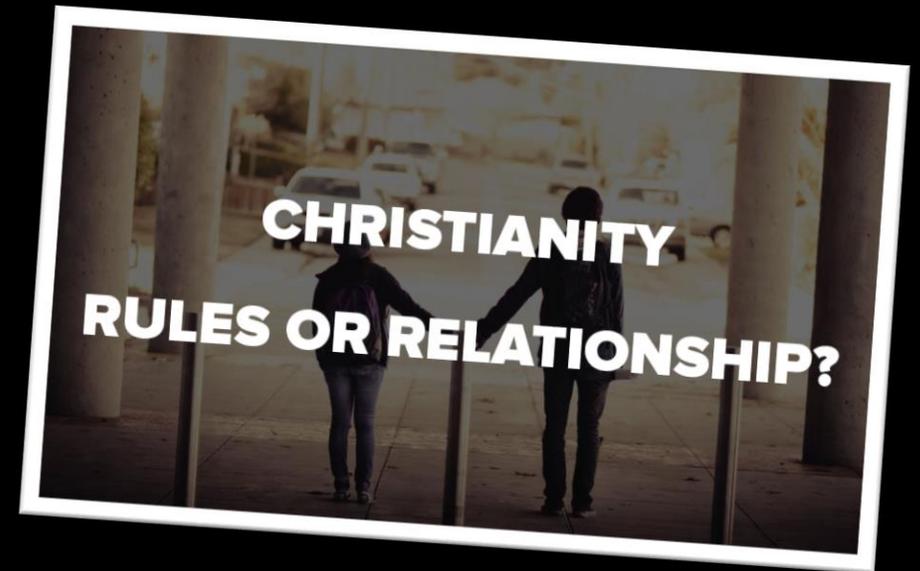
<sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> **Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.**



# RELATIONSHIP, NOT RULES

Rules are necessary and so God gives us absolutes in the Bible. But rules are intended to promote and protect relationship. They are like the pillars that hold up a building.

Rules are a means to an end.  
Relationship is the end—the goal!



# GOD JUDGES; I DON'T!

## Romans 14:4 (CEV)

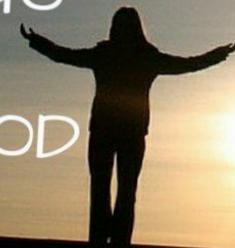
4 What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right.

### Let Go and Let GOD

I cast all my burden unto  
You Father because You  
care for me and  
You grant me the desires  
of my heart.

As I surrender my all to  
You, help me to always  
remember that I can

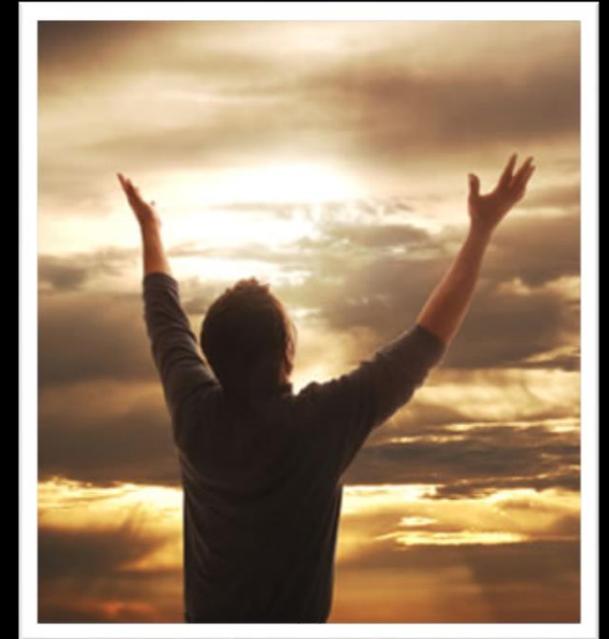
LET GO  
&  
LET GOD



# IN HONOR OF THE LORD

## Romans 14:5-6

<sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. **Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.** <sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.



# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

## Romans 14:7-9

<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, **that he might be Lord** both of the dead and of the living.



# ACCOUNTABLE TO CHRIST

## Romans 14:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
<sup>11</sup> for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."  
<sup>12</sup> So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God.**



# LIBERTY VS. LOVE

## Romans 14:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather **decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.** <sup>14</sup> I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Stumbling block or a stepping stone?



# WALKING IN LOVE

## Romans 14:15-19

<sup>15</sup> If you are hurting others by the foods you eat, you are not guided by love. Don't let your appetite destroy someone Christ died for. <sup>16</sup> Don't let your right to eat bring shame to Christ. <sup>17</sup> God's kingdom isn't about eating and drinking. It is about pleasing God, about living in peace, and about true happiness. All this comes from the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> If you serve Christ in this way, you will please God and be respected by people. <sup>19</sup> We should try to live at peace and help each other have a strong faith.

# WALKING IN LOVE

That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...  
I meant that.

- God

LAMAR

# LOVE FIRST, THEN LIBERTY

## Romans 14:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. <sup>21</sup> It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.



# FAITH AND LIBERTY

## Romans 14:20-21

<sup>22</sup> The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For **whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.**



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ If God has addressed it, the matter is settled.
- ✓ If you do, don't despise those who don't. And if you don't, don't criticize the one who does.
- ✓ Whatever you do or don't do, let it be for God's honor.
- ✓ Sacrifice your liberty if love requires it.
- ✓ Relationship is more important than rules.
- ✓ Live by your convictions.

