

Romans

Chapter 14

1

How this study handout is structured

We will go
verse by verse
(as appropriate)

Matthew 1:1

Scripture references
are found at the end of
the slides in the
handout

Scripture is NIV
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- The book of the generation. This is the proper title of the chapter. It is the same as to say, "The account of the ancestry or family, or the genealogical table of Jesus Christ." The phrase is common in Jewish writings. Compare [Ge 5:1](#), "This is the book of the generations of Adam," that is, the genealogical table of the family or descendants of Adam.
- Matthew 1:1
This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

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Bible Study Meeting Information

9:00 am Wednesday, 6:45 pm Wednesday

In Person

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 75 Pine Lakes Parkway, Palm Coast Florida 32164

Zoom

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Romans Background and Introduction

I. DOCTRINAL. THE SALVATION OF GOD. Chapters 1-8.

1. Introduction. Chapter 1:1-17.
2. The Need of Salvation Demonstrated. The Whole World Guilty and Lost. Chapter 1:18-3:20.
3. The Righteousness of God Revealed. Justification, What it is and What it Includes. Chapter 3:21-5:11.
4. In Christ. The Sanctification of the Believer; his Deliverance from Sin and the Law. Children and Heirs. Chapter 5:12-8:39.

Gaebelein

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Romans Background and Introduction

II. DISPENSATIONAL. GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL. Chapters 9-11.

1. Israel and God's Sovereignty. Chapter 9.
2. Israel's Failure and Unbelief. Chapter 10.
3. Israel's Future. Chapter 11.

Gaebelein

III. EXHORTATIONS AND THE CONCLUSION. Chapter 12-16:27.

1. The Exhortations. Chapter 12-15:13.  We are here!
2. The Conclusion. Chapter 15:14-16:27.

Paul's average letter was 1,300 words long, but his letter to the Romans, at over 7,000 words, is his longest.



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Chapter 14 Background and Introduction

1. Strong and Weak Believers Neither to Despise nor to Judge Each Other (verses 1-12)
2. Perfect Liberty in this Dispensation; but Each Must Walk According to Conscience. (verses 13-23)

Romans

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Chapter 14 Background and Introduction

- PAUL, IN THIS Fourteenth Chapter, and the following one, directs his instruction chiefly "to the 'strong,' who can bear it, while indirectly showing the state of the 'weak'! Those weak in faith, like babes, are not able to take much nourishment at once; while those who are strong are often not willing to receive what seems to reflect upon their vigor. To have faith before God, secretly, hiding it from the weaker brother, for his sake, until he becomes stronger, is not easy: it requires walking in low, which is always costly to the one loving!

Romans

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Chapter 14 Background and Introduction

The weak conscience needs further instruction. It is anemic and requires the hilltop, with its further view and bracing air; but in the meantime its owner must be guided by its promptings. A man must not take a certain course merely because others do so, unless he can justify their bolder faith and larger freedom. By thought and prayer and the study of God's Word, conscience becomes educated and strengthened, and ceases to worry as to whether we should be vegetarian or not; whether we should observe saints' days, or adopt a specific method of observing the Sabbath. Some people are constantly wondering and questioning about such things, as though their eternal salvation depended on minute observances. →

MeyerTTB

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Chapter 14 Background and Introduction

Such would have found but scant comfort from the Apostle. He would have said, "Do the best you know, and when you have once adopted a certain method of life, follow it humbly, until some wider view is opened before you by the Spirit of God." The main principle for us all is to live and die to please our Lord. He is our Master, and it will be for Him to allot our rewards. In the meantime let us not judge one another, but live in love, leaving each to work out the plan of his own life as his Master directs.

MeyerTTB

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Contextual Reading Romans 14:1-12

Strong and Weak Believers Neither to Despise nor to Judge Each Other

¹Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ²One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The 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. ⁴Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. →

11

Contextual Reading Romans 14:1-12

Strong and Weak Believers Neither to Despise nor to Judge Each Other

⁶Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸If 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. ⁹For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God

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Romans 14:1

- CHAPTER 14 is entirely occupied with a matter that gave rise to very difficult problems in the early years of the church's history. The Jewish converts carried with them pretty naturally their views and feelings about matters of eating and drinking, about the observance of days, and customs, and the like. Their thoughts were partly based on the law of God, and partly on the tradition of the elders, but at any rate their feelings were very strong. The Gentile converts had no such feelings, and were inclined to regard it all as so much obstinate stupidity on the part of their Jewish brethren. Here was a cause of endless friction. →

13

- **Romans 14:1**
Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

Romans 14:1

- The whole question is raised here, and settled with that admirable simplicity which characterizes Divine wisdom.
- We must not let our interest fade at this point. We must not say — These questions do not exist today. The whole thing is of purely academic interest. We can dismiss it.
- Not so. It is rather of very live and pressing importance. Though the exact questions that agitated and divided first-century Christians may have largely faded away, there are many others of an analogous nature taking their place, and much distress and harm is caused today when the instructions of this chapter are not observed.

FBHCNT

14

Romans 14:1

Which of the following are not disputable matters?

- Birth Control • Marijuana
- Caffeine • Movies
- Cards (Spades, Bid Whist...) • Music
- Chewing (Tobacco) • Piercings
- Dancing • Pokeno
- Dating • Social Media
- Drinking • Smoking
- Hemlines • Tattoos

15

Which of the following statements do you consider to be true?

The more things a Christian abstains from, the more he is the weaker brother.

0%

If you understand true Christian liberty, you will have fewer rules for Christian behavior

0%

All of the above

0%

None of the above

0%

Romans 14:2-3

- In that day the entire meat market was under the sponsorships of the Greek and Roman idolatry, a beef sacrificed to Jupiter, a mutton for Apollo, a hog to Hercules, a turkey to Minerva, a goose to Venus, a chicken to Diana, and a goat to Mercury, the meat being at the same time sold in the markets for all the people to purchase and eat. Of course those gods had no existence but were mere creatures of poetic imagination. → Godbey

- Romans 14:2-3 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 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.

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Romans 14:2-3

- Therefore it did not hurt the meat to offer it to them. Hence, everyone having clear light and solving the problem in his own mind, could eat this meat with impunity; meanwhile, others saw idolatry as in their old religion while eating the meat offered to their old heathen gods. In the latter case, of course all such must abstain from eating the meat offered to idols. At the same time Paul decides that if the eating of this meat on the part of the people who have clear light and a good conscience, puts a stumbling-block in the way of the weak, they must also abstain. The New Testament early reveals but one thing necessary to *bona fide* membership in the gospel church, i. e., "that by one spirit we all be baptized into one body" ([1Co 12:13](#)). →

Godbey

18

Romans 14:2-3

- Paul positively forbids the magnification of anything else except the work of Christ, which alone is necessary to salvation. This magnification of non-essentials is the fatal heresy of all ages by which Satan maneuvers to get his black wing between the weak believer and Jesus, and turning his attention to non-essentials, run him into idolatry and plunge him into hell. We are here positively forbidden to tangle up weak believers by disputation over doubtful and non-essential matters. ...

Goodley

19

Romans 14:4

Pool

- Every Christian has Christ alone for his own or his proper Master; and it is his judgment by which he must abide; it is to him that he stands or falls, that he does well or ill.
- As though he said, — "**It belongs rightly to the Lord, either to disapprove, or to accept what his servant does; hence he robs the Lord, who attempts to take to himself this authority.**" And he adds, *And they will stand: and by so saying, he not only bids us to abstain from condemning, but also exhorts us to mercy and kindness, so as ever to hope well of him, in whom we perceive anything of God; inasmuch as the Lord has given us a hope, that he will fully confirm, and lead to perfection, those in whom he has begun the work of grace.*
- **Romans 14:4**
Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Calvin

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True or False: According to Romans 14:4, believers should never address wrongdoing within their religious communities since all judgment belongs exclusively to God.



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Romans 14:4

- The distinction between discernment and condemnation. While we shouldn't condemn others' hearts or spiritual status (which only God knows), we still need discernment about harmful behaviors.
- We should approach others with humility recognizing God's authority to judge, while also maintaining healthy standards and accountability within communities.
- The challenge is finding that balance—addressing genuine wrongdoing without assuming the role of ultimate judge, which belongs to God alone.

Romans 14:5

- The weak brother, still influenced in his conscience by legal considerations, held the first day of the week as peculiar and sacred in itself. He invested it with the restrictions of a Jewish sabbath, instead of hailing it with fresh joy each week as an opportunity for remembering, with other Christians, his Lord; and our place in the new creation with Him.
- Now, the strong believer regarded every day alike. Each day alike was an opportunity for him to be filled with the Spirit, and in everything by word or deed giving thanks unto God the Father through Him. →

Romans

- **Romans 14:5**
One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 23

Romans 14:5

- No day, thus, was holy in itself, above another! Privilege there was on the Lord's Day, but no bondage. Paul's instruction is, Let each man be fully assured in his own mind. Moses never could have said a thing like that! There is a sense in which these words reveal our liberty in Christ as does no other single passage. The Law allowed no liberty of action in such things: its very spirit and essence was bondage to a letter. Conscience was judged beforehand by the letter of the Law; conduct was prescribed. When a man gathered sticks on the Sabbath, he was stoned! Not so, now! Not being under the Law, or the legal principle, but in the Risen Christ, under God's eternal favor, we have entered upon what the Spirit, in Chapter Twelve, calls our "intelligent service." →

Romans

Romans 14:5

- Here is an amazing sphere of holy freedom in which each of us, learning the truth, is treated as a king in the realm of his own mind. Instead of being told what he must or must not do, he is freely exhorted to assure his own mind and heart fully and walk as Christ's free man.
- Here then the Apostle applies the best rule, when he bids everyone to be fully assured as to his own mind; by which he implies that there ought to be in Christians such a care for obedience, that they do nothing, except what they think, or rather feel assured, is pleasing to God.

Romans

Calvin

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Does our Christian liberty apply to tithes and offerings? Meaning we are under no set minimum amount because of our Christian liberty.

Yes, it doesn't matter to God if I give less than 10 percent.

0%

Yes, and based on how God has blessed me I should be giving more than 10 percent.

0%

No, I should be giving at least 10 percent according to scripture. It is not a disputable matter.

0%

Romans 14:6

- **for they give thanks to God;** the Christian who regards days and meats according to Jewish ceremonies, and the Christian who does not, both act from religious motives, and for the purpose of honoring God. This they show by thanking him for his mercies. They should therefore be received and treated by each other as friends of God. No man should do what he does not believe to be right; and the great object of every man in what he does, and in what he forbears to do, should be to honor God and benefit his fellowman.

FBN 27

- **Romans 14:6**
Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

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Romans 14:7

- **Our life is not a possession to do as we like with.** Yet many act as if it were; as if they were at liberty to be idle or to work, to employ their time and their powers in one way or in another, without giving account to any. Christians are summoned to take a different and a nobler view of this earthly existence.... Men are prone to pass judgment one upon another. It is a tendency against which we have all occasion to watch. For our habit is to be lenient to ourselves and severe towards others. A corrective to this tendency is in the great fact that all are accountable to God. Remembering this, we shall not, except where the authoritative society, the ordinance of Heaven, requires it, be willing to pass sentence upon our fellow-men.
- **Romans 14:7**
For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.

Pulpit

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Romans 14:8

- If God had willed it, each of us might have entered heaven at the moment of conversion. It was not absolutely necessary for our preparation for immortality that we should tarry here. It is possible for a man to be taken to heaven, and to be found meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light, though he has but just believed in Jesus. It is true that our sanctification is a long and continued process, and we shall not be perfected till we lay aside our bodies and enter within the veil; but nevertheless, had the Lord so willed it, He might have changed us from imperfection to perfection, and have taken us to heaven at once. → 29

- **Romans 14:8**
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.

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Romans 14:8

- **Why then are we here?** Would God keep His children out of paradise a single moment longer than was necessary? Why is the army of the living God still on the battle-field when one charge might give them the victory? Why are His children still wandering hither and thither through a maze, when a solitary word from His lips would bring them into the center of their hopes in heaven? **The answer is—they are here that they may "live unto the Lord," and may bring others to know His love.** We remain on earth as sowers to scatter good seed; as ploughmen to break up the fallow ground; as heralds publishing salvation. We are here as the "salt of the earth," to be a blessing to the world. We are here to glorify Christ in our daily life. We are here as workers for Him, and as "workers together with Him." Let us see that our life answers its end. Let us live earnest, useful, holy lives, to "the praise of the glory of His grace."

Romans 14:8

- THE CHRISTIAN IDEA OF LIFE: "To the Lord we live: to the Lord we die." That idea of life is founded on verse 7. In one aspect that is a universal and inevitable law. Now, Paul says that what all other men must do unconsciously, the Christian does consciously. Life has two aspects — the voluntary and the involuntary. Both these spheres of life are to be consecrated.
- In the Christian idea the whole of those marvelous activities that rise from our will are to be one scene of dedication to God. This seems visionary and impossible. I believe it is practicable and attainable. To illustrate this. Our voluntary actions are most powerfully influenced by silent currents of emotion which only now and then flash into sight. →

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Bibillus

Romans 14:8

- Just as in the ocean, underneath the constant motion of its waves, there are deep currents setting in one fixed direction, undisturbed by the roar of the storm, and moving on still when calmness rests on the sea — so in the life of the soul. You see this in great transgressors. The silent progress towards crime culminates suddenly in outward action, and the unseen smoldering fire leaps out in flame. You see it in great discoverers. They had long been seeking for a truth; in a moment it revealed itself, and the silent train of inquiry flashed then to its result. We see it in ourselves. We have found temptation suddenly assume a gigantic and almost irresistible strength after periods of carelessness or unwatchfulness over our inner life. →

Bibillus

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Romans 14:8

- Or we have often found, after long fear and foreboding of some trial, a strength of soul arise which enables us to bear it. Now, if these silent, secret tendencies of thought and feeling control so much of our voluntary life, may not that life be wholly consecrated, if a great silent consecration be the strong impulse of our being?

Bibillus

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Romans 14:9

- This is a confirmation of the reason which has been last mentioned; for in order to prove that we ought to live and to die to the Lord, he had said, that whether we live or die we are under the power of Christ. He now shows how rightly Christ claims this power over us, since he has obtained it by so great a price; for by undergoing death for our salvation, he has acquired authority over us which cannot be destroyed by death, and by rising again, he has received our whole life as his peculiar property. He has then by his death and resurrection deserved that we should, in death as well as in life, advance the glory of his name.
- **Romans 14:9**
For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Calvin

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Romans 14:10

- Christ will be the Judge, he is so appointed by his Father, and is every way fit for it, being God omniscient and omnipotent; and when he shall appear in his glory, he shall sit on his judgment seat, the dead will be raised, the books will be opened, and all shall be summoned to appear before him, of every age and sex, of every rank and degree, and of every character, good or bad: here the saints are particularly designed, "we shall all stand"; whether ministers or private Christians, weak or strong believers; they that are apt to judge, and others that are too ready to despise; → 
- **Romans 14:10**

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

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Romans 14:10

- they shall all stand before the tribunal of Christ, who is sole Judge, and shall render to every man according to his works, and from whom they shall all receive their sentence. The allusion is to human courts of judicature, in which the judge sits upon a bench, and they that are tried stand before him; see **2Co 5:10**.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV)** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 14:11

- and **every tongue shall confess to God;** that is, everyone that has a tongue, every man, be he who he will, a good or a bad man, shall own at the last day, that Christ is God and Lord of all; Gill
“*Sinnerman*” is a traditional African-American spiritual song whose roots in music history go back to the turn of the century.
- **Romans 14:11** It is written: “As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’ ” 37



Nina Simone **Sinnerman**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lACZdwwwJl4>

Oh, Sinnerman, where you gonna run to?
Sinnerman
Where you gonna run to?
Where you gonna run to?

Romans 14:12

- What is a man’s object, what he works for? The Christian life has also a special object—that is, to lay up treasures in heaven. This treasure must be laid up. It is a thing which cannot be seen, it is an invisible thing that resides in the soul; nevertheless it is a very real thing.
- Every one of us shall give account, whether he be great or small, strong or weak; and that he shall give account of himself; i.e. of his own actions, and not another’s. He shall give account of himself in his natural capacity, as a man; and in his capacity, as a rich or great man; and in his religious capacity, as one that hath enjoyed such education, such means of grace, ... Nisbet
- **Romans 14:12** So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Poole

True or False: Pastors and Teachers will face a more stringent judgment.



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Romans 14:12

- **James 3:1 (NIV)** Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
- **Ezekiel 33:7-9 (NIV)** Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, "You wicked person, you will surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.
- **Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)** Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

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Contextual Reading Romans 14:13-23

[Perfect Liberty in this Dispensation; but Each Must Walk According to Conscience.](#)

¹³Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. ¹⁴I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. ¹⁵If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. →

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Contextual Reading Romans 14:14-23

[Perfect Liberty in this Dispensation; but Each Must Walk According to Conscience.](#)

¹⁹Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. ²²So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

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Romans 14:13

- *That no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way:* q. d. Take heed of offending your brethren in any kind; do not, by an unseasonable use of your liberty, either drive them from their Christian profession, or provoke them to imitate you, and so to sin against their consciences. You have a parallel text, [1Co 8:9](#).
- **1 Corinthians 8:9 (KJV)** But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Pool

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- **Romans 14:13** Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

44

Romans 14:14

- I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, (*I myself know it; my very faith in Jesus carries to me the conviction of it; I do not hesitate to declare my own decided view, that the scruples of these weak brethren are unfounded*) that there is nothing unclean of itself; save that to him who concludes anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. To him it becomes defiling, because partaking of it defiles his conscience.

Pulpit

am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

Romans 14:15

- This address is to the Gentile convert. In the previous verse, Paul admitted that the prejudice of the Jew was not well founded. But, admitting that, still the question was how he should be treated while he had that prejudice. The apostle here shows the Gentile that he ought not so to act as necessarily to wound his feelings, or to grieve him.
- Be grieved. Be pained; as a conscientious man always is, when he sees another, and especially a Christian brother, do anything which he esteems to be wrong. The pain would be real, though the opinion from which it arose might not be well founded. Calvin

45

- **Romans 14:15** If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.

45

Romans 14:16

- You have greater knowledge than these weak brethren, and know that "nothing is unclean" [Ro 14:14]. That is "good." But if you sternly insist on your right to do what the weak regard as sinful, your "good" will be evil spoken of.

PNTC

- **Romans 14:16** Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

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Romans 14:17

- And note, that the words here are not, righteousness in Christ --referring to our standing; but righteousness in the Holy Spirit--referring to our walk! Also, joy in the Holy Spirit. We cannot too strongly emphasize this fact--that "the kingdom of God," now, is altogether in the Spirit! This leaves forms and ceremonies, days and seasons, unclean meats and clean meats, absolutely out! Such things are not Christian. They are Jewish or pagan, now! Such "religious" distinctions as these concerning eating and drinking are certainly not at all in the Holy Ghost--where all the saints now are ([Ro 8:9](#)), and in whose energy all the real operations of "the kingdom of God" now are!

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- **Romans 14:17**
For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

[Romans](#)

Romans 14:18

- And the words serving Christ further prove that verse 17 has reference to practical walk, not to our standing in Christ. One thus walking, we see, is well-pleasing to God, and approved of men. Our Lord said, "If any man serve Me, him will the Father honor" ([Joh 12:26](#)). Nothing really pleases God, (since Christ the Son has been manifested, and become obedient to the Father even unto death), but to have men know and serve Christ--whose yoke is easy! But such service is made possible only since the coming of the Holy Spirit: therefore, "righteousness, peace, joy, in the Holy Spirit" is that service of Christ which delights God. →
- **Romans 14:18**
because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

[Romans](#)

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Romans 14:18

- And approved of men.--Men will not always admit it, but they approve a believer who walks righteously, in Divine peace, and joy. Mere religious professors, men despise: but, while they may and often do persecute the one who walks in the Spirit, they at heart approve such,--yes, and only such! **Let us ask ourselves. Does my walk please God? Is it approved in the hearts of men?**

Romans

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Romans 14:19

- This verse is the application of the foregoing discourse, in which you have an exhortation to the practice of two great duties. The one is peace, or peaceableness; the other is mutual edification. He had persuaded before to peace with all men, **Ro 12:18**; and here he speaks more especially of peace and concord amongst brethren: see **2Co 13:11; Eph 4:3; Col 3:15; 1Th 5:13; Heb 12:14**. This peace is very necessary, and Christians should endeavour all things that will promote it and avoid all things that will obstruct it. And they must not only live peaceably, but profitably one with another. They should build one another up in grace and knowledge.
- **Romans 14:19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Pool

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Romans 14:20

- The "work of God" here refers to the operations of the Spirit of God within the soul--"the fabric which the grace of God has begun, and which the edification of Christians by each other may help to raise." Or, which the selfish refusal to walk in love may pull down! **For we find more people stumbling at the inconsistencies, and lack of love, in professing Christians, than at all things else.** Let us follow Paul: "Though I was free from all men, I brought myself under bondage to all, that I might gain the more . . . Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good . . . even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved" (1Co 9:19; 10:24,33).
Let us follow Paul: "Though I was free from all men, I brought myself under bondage to all, that I might gain the more . . . Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good . . . even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved" (1Co 9:19; 10:24,33).
51
- **Romans 14:20**
Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.
51

Romans 14:21

- The apostle proceeds to enlarge his doctrine touching this particular, beyond the controversy that occasioned this his discourse; for he shows, that to avoid the scandal or offence of our brethren, we are to abstain, not only from things prohibited by the law, but also from things that are not prohibited thereby; as from *flesh* or *wine*, or any indifferent thing whatsoever.
- **Romans 14:21**
It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.
Pooler

Romans 14:22

- Be satisfied with cherishing the opinion, and acting on it in private, without bringing it forward to produce disturbance in the church.
 - between yourself and God. Where God only is the witness. God sees your sincerity, and will approve your opinion. That opinion cherish and act on, yet so as not to give offence, and to produce disturbance in the church. God sees your sincerity; he sees that you are right; and you will not offend him. Your brethren do not see that you are right, and they will be offended. → Barnes
- 53

Romans 14:22

- Happy is he, etc. This state of mind, the apostle says, is one that is attended with peace and happiness; and this is a further reason why they should indulge their opinion in private, without obtruding it on others. They were conscious of doing right, and that consciousness was attended with peace. **This fact he states in the form of a universal proposition, as applicable not only to this case, but to all cases**

Barnes

Romans 14:23

- The apostle as simply saying that a man should not do a thing doubting its correctness; that he should have a strong conviction that what he does is right; and that if he has not this conviction, it is sinful. The rule is of universal application. In all cases, if a man does a thing which he does not believe to be right, it is a sin, and his conscience will condemn him for it. It may be proper, however, to observe, that the converse of this is not always true, that if a man believes a thing to be right, that therefore it is not sin. For many of the persecutors were conscientious, ([Joh 16:2](#); [Ac 26:9](#)) and the murderers of the Son of God did it ignorantly, ([Ac 3:17](#); [1Co 2:8](#)) and yet were adjudged as guilty of enormous crimes. Comp. [Lu 11:50-51](#); [Ac 2:23,37](#).
Barnes
- **Romans 14:23**
But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

55

Reference Scriptures

- **Acts 2:23 (KJV)** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:
- **Acts 2:37 (KJV)** Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- **Acts 3:17 (KJV)** And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.
- **Acts 26:9 (KJV)** I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- **Colossians 3:15 (KJV)** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

56

Reference Scriptures

- **1 Corinthians 2:8 (KJV)** Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- **1 Corinthians 9:19 (KJV)** For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.
- **1 Corinthians 10:24 (KJV)** Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth*.
- **1 Corinthians 10:33 (KJV)** Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.
- **2 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV)** Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

57

Reference Scriptures

- **Ephesians 4:3 (KJV)** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)** Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:
- **John 12:26 (KJV)** If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.
- **John 16:2 (KJV)** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

58

Reference Scriptures

- **Luke 11:50-51 (KJV)** That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:13 (KJV)** And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.