

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Chapter 14

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN CHRISTIANS DISAGREE?

Principle #1. Don't argue with people over disputable matters.

Romans 14:1 (NIV) “Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over **disputable** matters.”

Romans 14:2-3 (NIV) “One 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.”

Romans 14:4_a (NIV) “Who are you to judge someone else's servant?”

Principle #2. Don't insist that your way is the only right way.

Romans 14:5 (NIV) “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.”

Romans 14:6 (NIV) “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.”

Romans 14:7-8 (NIV) “For 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.”

Principle #3. We will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Romans 14:10-11 (NIV) “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. ¹¹It is written: “As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.””

Romans 14:12 (NIV) “So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”

Principle #4. Our actions are limited by the impact they have on others.

Romans 14:13 (NIV) “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.”

Romans 14:15 (NIV) “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.”

Unity matters to God!

Romans 14:17-18 (NIV) “For 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.”

Romans 14:19-21 (NIV) “Let 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.”

Making sacrifices for others

is a sign of your spiritual maturity!

Romans 15:1-3 (NIV) “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself . . .”