



**Am I My Brother's Keeper?
Romans 14:1-15:13**

The Bible is clear that some things are sin (immoral) and must not be done, and some things are good (moral) and must be done. Yet there are many things in life that are neither morally good nor bad. They are *amoral*. How do Christians make decisions about these things? We go to the Bible for guidance. Yet when we go there, Christians come to different and often opposite conclusions. What do we do then? Paul gives guidance.

To the Brother Weak in Faith: Stop Judging (14:1-13a)

Paul uses the amoral issues of eating meat and observing sacred days. With these examples he describes two groups of people and gives 7 principles:

Group One: the Christian **weak** in faith limits his freedom in Christ because his conscience won't allow him to do certain things.

Group Two: the Christian **strong** in faith is able to exercise his freedom in Christ with a clear conscience.

Principle One: The weak should not judge the strong. Why? Because God is the only judge.

Principle Two: Everything we do should be done with thanksgiving to the Lord.

Principle Three: We all must give our own account to God.

To the Brother Strong in Faith: Love (vv. 14:13b - 23)

Principle Four: The strong should not look down on the weak.

Principle Five: The strong should have love as the motivation for their actions, not their freedom in Christ.

Principle Six: The strong should limit their freedom to keep their brother from stumbling and falling into sin.

Principle Seven: The strong should at times keep his Christian freedom a private matter between himself and God.

What's More Important?

Acceptance *more* than judging or despising

Living for the Lord *more* than judging

Concern for our own judgment day *more* than our brother's day

Love *more* than freedom

Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit *more* than eating and drinking

Peace and mutual edification *more* than destroying the work of God

Building up our brother *more* than pleasing ourselves

Unity *more* than proving who is right

Don't Miss These Points Too

The strong don't have to limit their freedom in the presence of other strong Christians.

When we accept each other, we bring praise and glory to God.