



Discussion Guide

November 16, 2025

Romans 14:1-11

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ 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. 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.

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. 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. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 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. 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. 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. ¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

Read Romans 14:1-4

1. What do you think Paul means by 'disputable matters'? What issues in our current day might be equivalent to the specific issue Paul is addressing in the first century?
2. How do we distinguish between essential and non-essential issues in the church?
3. Why is it significant that Paul says God has accepted both the one who eats and the one who abstains?

Read Romans 14:5-11

4. What principles does Paul give for dealing with differences of conviction among believers?
5. As a group, compile a list of things that Christians might reasonably disagree about in good faith.
6. How does remembering that we belong to the Lord shape how we treat one another?
7. What's the danger of judging or looking down on fellow believers who practice their faith differently than we do?
8. How does verse 7 function as the fulcrum for this passage, the fixed point on which everything else balances?
9. To what extent do you think that the contemporary church in America lives out the principles in verse 7? What would be different in us and in our churches if we made living out this principle a priority?