



THE BOOK OF  
**ROMANS**

# Romans 14:1-23 NIV

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 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. 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.

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. 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. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 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. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 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. <sup>11</sup> It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I 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. 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.

Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 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. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

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.

# GCF Creed

- In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, diversity. In all things, love.
- Rom. 12:16 – “be of the same mind”
- A local church must be united on essentials.
- When it comes to nonessentials, there’s diversity.

# Romans 14

- Your spirituality isn't measured by how many things you don't do.
- There's allowance for diversity in nonessentials.
- We are not to judge other Christians over nonessentials.



# Romans 14

- Francis Asbury: "When men have got a little knowledge, they think it is a fine thing to be arguing about disputable matters. Unnecessary arguments are their necessary practice."
- Jewish Christians were hung up on different issues from past teachings and the culture they grew up in.

## 2 Problems

- The stronger (more free) Christian shouldn't look down on his weaker brother or sister.
- John Wesley: "The longer I walk with God, the larger the allowances I make for human frailties. I demand more from myself, and less from others."
- The weaker (less free) Christian shouldn't look down on his stronger brother or sister.

## 2 Problems

- v. 14 – “If anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.”
- Bishop John Potter: “If you desire to be extensively useful to God, then don’t spend your time contending against things that are disputable. But instead, spend your time and energy in promoting real holiness.”
- Do not judge other Christians who have more biblical liberty than you do.

# Romans 15:1-6 MSG

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way scripture puts it. Even if it was written in scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us.

# Romans 15:1-6 MSG

God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our master Jesus!

# Romans 15

- How can I help?
- Strength is for service and not for status.
- The fulfillment of life comes when you build others up and as a result you are built up.

# Philippians 2:3-4 NASB

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others.

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This is a call to bear the burdens of others.



# Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

# Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- We are not all called to the different offices within the church.
- We are all called to build up the body of Christ.
- We are all called to develop our gifts to maturity.

# RECAP

- The church must operate in unity.
- Stronger Christians shouldn't look down on weaker Christians.
- Weaker Christians shouldn't look down on stronger Christians.
- Stay open and stay teachable.
- The strength God gives is for service and not status.
- Ask others if they need help and ask for help when you need it.



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