

Comments About Romans 14

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 14.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Avoid condemning others

Many Bible students note that the first 11 chapters in the book of Romans deal more with spiritual concepts of God's righteousness and that chapter 12 begins a section of Christian-living principles.

The Christian-living principle at the beginning of chapter 14 deals with a disciple's goal to have both conviction and compassion.

Notice Romans 14:1.

Romans 14:1—"Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things."

The apostle Paul proceeded to make his point by contrasting the difference between those who eat only vegetables and those who eat meat (verses 2-3).

He elaborated in verses 4-6.

Romans 14:4-6—"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks."

- None of us lives to himself or dies to himself (verse 7).
- Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's (verse 8).
- Christ rose again to live that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living (verse 9).
- Why do you judge your brother or why do you show contempt for your brother (verse 10)? We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

- Paul paraphrased Isaiah 45:23 (verse 11).
- Each of us shall give account of himself to God (verse 12).

Avoid causing someone to stumble

- Don't judge another person and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (verse 13).
- To him who considers something to be unclean, it is unclean (verse 14).
- Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died (verse 15).
- The Kingdom of God is not food and drink. It is righteousness, peace and joy (verses 16-18).
- Pursue the things that make for peace and edification (verse 19).
- Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food (verse 20).

Romans 14:21—"It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak."

Romans 14:22—"Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves."

Definitions of sin

Many Bible students view Romans 14:23 as one of the three scriptural definitions of sin.

- 1 John 3:4—Sin is defined by the law of God.
- James 4:17—Sin is based upon a person's knowledge.
- Romans 14:23—Sin is based upon a person's faith.