

Romans 14:1-9

Romans 14:1 - "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions."

- The word "eat" is the focus of this section
- In this section dietary practices vary among people and this leads to division.
- "Weak in faith" is used to describe a man who does not understand the liberty he has in Christ.
- Colossians 2:6-3:11
- Galatians 3:1-14 and 4:8-11
- "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ?" - Romans 10:17
- 1 Timothy 4:1-4 explains that the Word of God that produces faith can be replaced by doctrines of demons that destroy faith and replace it with legalistic observations and ascetic lifestyles.

Romans 14:2 - "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables."

- "Eat anything" is a better translation than "eat everything"

Romans 14:3 - "Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him."

- "Despise" means disdain, condescending judgment. It is the same word used to refer to the Jew' treatment of Jesus.
- The "weak" would consider themselves to be the faithful, the true remnant of the faith. The "weak" would stand in judgment over those who were free in Christ.
- Note: God has received both the "strong" and the "weak" because they are believers. The difference is in their level of understanding the Truth or the Word or the Promises of God.

Romans 14:4 - "Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand."

- "Servant" means slave and refers to the household slaves familiar in Rome. The slaves were owned and given orders from their owner. Who could judge the slave? Only the owner. Point: We are the Lord's slaves. At the end of the day slaves do not judge each other, but are judged by their Lord.

Romans 14:5 - "One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind."

- Another area of difference is holy days.
- This could refer to Pagan holy days celebrated by the pagan Romans, OR This could refer to Jewish holy days celebrated by the Jews under the Law of Moses

Romans 14:6 - "The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God."

- Paul returns to his point: DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL
- Both, these groups are attempting to honor the Lord with their practices.

Romans 14:7 - "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself."

- Death does not separate us from Christ but transfers us from this life of struggle to a life of rest

Romans 14:8 - "For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

Romans 14:9 - "For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."