

# The Quirky Christians

Romans 14 -- 11/22/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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## Romans 14

Now accept the one who is **weak in faith**, but **NOT** for the purpose of passing judgment on his **opinions**. <sup>2</sup>One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is **weak in faith** eats vegetables only. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats is **not** to regard with **contempt** the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is **not to judge** the one who eats, for God has **accepted** him. <sup>4</sup>**Who are you to judge** the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the **LORD** is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person regards **one day above another**, another regards **every day alike**. Each person must be **fully convinced in his own mind**. <sup>6</sup>He who observes the day, observes it for the **LORD**, and he who eats, does so for the **LORD**, for he **gives thanks to God**; and he who **eats not**, for the **LORD** he does not eat, and gives **thanks to God**. <sup>7</sup>For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; <sup>8</sup>for if we live, we live for the **LORD**, or if we die, we die for the **LORD**; therefore whether we live or die, we are the **LORD's**. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be **LORD** both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>But you, **why do you judge your brother?** Or you again, why do you regard your brother with **contempt?** For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live’, says the **LORD**, ‘every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall give praise to God.’”

<sup>12</sup>So then **each** one of us will give an **account** of himself to God.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us **not judge one another anymore**, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. <sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced in the **LORD** Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who **thinks** anything to be unclean, to him it is **unclean**.<sup>15</sup>For if because of food your brother is **hurt**, you are no longer walking according to love. **Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died**. <sup>16</sup>Therefore **do not let** what is for you a good thing be spoken of as **evil**; <sup>17</sup>for the **kingdom of God** is **not** eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. <sup>18</sup>For he who in this way serves Christ is **acceptable to God and approved by men**. <sup>19</sup>So then, we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. <sup>20</sup>**Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food**. **All things, indeed, are clean**, but they are evil for the man who eats and **gives offense**. <sup>21</sup>It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. <sup>22</sup>**The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is he who **does not condemn himself** in what he approves. <sup>23</sup>But he who doubts is **condemned** if he eats, because his eating is **not from faith**; and whatever is **not from faith** is sin.

Let's look back at where we've come from and what we've learned so far

**1. The Great Foundational Doctrines of the Faith**

- a. God's Salvation revealed in the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16-17)
- b. God is Creator (Romans 1:18-22)
- c. Humans are fully sinful and depraved and due God's Wrath (Romans 1:18-3:31)
- d. Forgiveness, Redemption, Justification by Faith in Christ as a free gift (Romans 3-5)
- e. Sanctification, Growing in Christlikeness until Christ takes us home (Romans 6-8)

**2. Israel** is still a part of God's Overall Plan of Redemption (Romans 9-11)

**3. Our personal** responsibility of personal, individual Faith in Christ as fully surrendered, growing and transforming disciples of Christ → Our Personal Relationship with God **and** His Word (Romans 12:1-2)

**4. Our Relationship** to our fellow believers in our local **church** family, within the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-21)

**5. Our Relationship to Government and** God's Ideal of Government (Romans 13:1-7)

**6. Our Relationship to people around us** that may be outside of Christ, how we are to deal with our past **and** the blatantly sinful world around us (Romans 13:8-14)

**Romans 14 – The Quirky Christian . . . Accept him/her ...**

- 1. Paul is talking about Real, Born Again, Christians, **not** the unsaved or someone who might be interested in following Christ, but isn't genuinely saved yet.
- 2. Paul is **not** discussing about **Pagan-Rooted Traditions**. How we are to deal with that is consistently taught through the Old Testament **and** in the Gospels, Acts, 1 Cor. 8 & 10, and Rev. 2 & 3 - Illustration about "mindless" traditions → The "Cut" Ham in a Large Oven . . .
- 3. How are we to deal with folks that disagree with our "Christian" Sacred Opinions about things? Bed-Rock Doctrines fully established as Christian, New Covenant Doctrines are what all of us are to agree upon, together as a church, fully surrender to, and holding-fast to.  
**But**, Paul is talking about those "grey" areas of faith that fall in those cracks of what we call "opinions" about various topics and things that God has **NOT** Prescribed for all Christians to do, follow, obey, etc. **in the New Covenant in Christ** (in the Messiah)
  - a. What about how we view what we are supposed to eat? (in the New Covenant in Christ)
  - b. What about how we view individual days of the week? (in the New Covenant in Christ)
- 4. When Paul talks about "**Judging**" in this context ... what is his focus?  
**Answer:** Contempt, "looking down upon others" who have "weak faith", or judging others because they aren't as "restrictive" as we are regarding [Fill in the Blank]
- 5. Who owns each, individual, Born Again, Christian? Then that is how we are to treat each other. "So then, each one of us will give an account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:12)
- 6. Keep your Christian, "Sacred" Opinions to yourself – **don't PUSH** them onto others . . .  
In your current growth-stage in Christ, right now, you could actually be incorrect about them.  
**But**, doesn't that seem to contradict verses 13-20? (Rom. 14:13-23) [**dinner at their home?**]
- 7. What does Paul mean by "**whatever is not from Faith is sin**"?  
**Answer:** We are to Live by Faith in God **and** His Word, Following Christ in a Surrendered, Trusting Relationship. Anything less than that is "doubtful" - thus sinful - going against what you believe God's Word says, or at least, what you understand God's Word to say.