

Romans 14
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I. Romans 14 – how to deal with disagreements that are not doctrinal

A. When Two Brothers Disagree: Romans 14

1. The Eating of Meat

- a. Sacrificed to idols – 1 Cor 8:7
- b. Necessarily - all "unclean" meats

2. Paul is clear – our liberty cannot harm the weakness of other brethren

- a. Weak because their conscience is strong (but untrained)
- b. Weak because they lack the fullness of understanding or conviction

3. Romans 14 is a parallel passage to 1 Corinthians 8

B. Paul Seeks consideration for one another

1. TO the One With Liberty and Understanding

- a. You understand what is lawful

1 Co 10:23 *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*

- b. Love is the key

Ro 14:15 *Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.*

- c. We must not only consider what is right for us, but for others

2. To the One with a Conscience

- a. You also understand what is lawful

Ro 14:14 *I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself;....*

1 Cor 8:4 *Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.*

- b. But:

- (1) Maybe you don't understand it completely
- (2) Maybe you understand, but just can't feel good to let it go

- c. There is no shame in spiritual immaturity for those who are new in Christ

Romans 14:4 *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.*

- d. Love is the key

- (1) Do not judge your brother as sinning if he is not considerate

Ro 14:13 *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

C. Whose Conscience can be violated

- 1. We must not offend the believer
- 2. But it is true too of the unbeliever

1Co 10:27 *If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. 28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness."*

II. What Romans 14 is not:

A. Ignorance of the Law

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

1 Corinthians 8:1 *Concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge*

1. We must all have the same knowledge for Romans 14 to apply
2. If we disagree because of a lack of understanding, teaching is the only solution
3. We CANNOT leave someone ignorant

B. Romans 14 is not about Congregational captivity by the weakest

1. The issue is personal Liberty, not congregational
2. The congregation DOES NOT submit to a weak Christian

C. Romans 14 is not a license to tolerate error

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

1. We CANNOT accept anyone who comes to us with another Gospel

Galatians 1:9 *As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

2. We CANNOT receive one who brings another doctrine

2 John 1:9-10 *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;*

3. We CANNOT Receive those contrary Christ's Doctrine

Romans 16:17 *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

4. We CANNOT keep fellowship with an immoral brother

1 Corinthians 5:11 *But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.*

5. We CANNOT keep fellowship with a Disobedient brother

2 Thessalonians 3:14 *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

D. Romans 14 cannot cause the church to be less than the Pillar of Truth

1 Timothy 3:15 *...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

III. Applications of Romans 14

A. Know the difference in opinion and doctrine

1. Too often we make our opinions a doctrine
2. IF we cannot confirm it is or is not a sin, it is likely opinion

B. Treat brethren with respect

1. Our respect to other brethren is key

C. Control our words and ideas

1. Opinions not carefully presented are dangerous
2. When unsure, do not speak

D. The chief rule: Put others before ourselves

1. Putting on the Mind of Christ