

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

Paul is now moving into the Jews who had received Jesus and were converted to Christianity but had not yet experienced their liberty in Christ from eating certain foods and observing certain days. The one who is weak that Paul is referring to is the Jew who is born again but have not yet experienced the fullness of their freedom in Christ.

The context of Romans chapter fourteen is based on questionable or doubtful matters. Doubtful things are topics that are not heavily mentioned in scripture and should be left between the person and God. An example of this could be a woman swimming with a bathing suit on. Believers should not go around being the moral police.

The Greek word for receive is *proslambanō* and means to take by the hand in order to lead aside or to take into friendship. There are many believers today who are being persecuted more by their brothers and sisters within the church than a non-believer.

**Romans 14:2 *For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.***

During this time the Jews were cautious of what they ate because the meat may have been contaminated in Rome so they abstained from meats and remained vegetarian. The Old Testament had dietary laws set in place because God wanted to separate the Jews from the Gentiles so that even when they ate, they were separated unto the Lord. Under the New Covenant God told Peter to not call anything that I have made unclean (Acts 10:15). No food that God made is unclean but He did create dietary laws pertaining to the Jews for reasons listed above.

There is a freedom now from the Old Testament dietary laws. These were only types and shadows but now the substance has come (Col 2:16-17).

**Romans 14:3 *Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.***

The believer who has experienced their liberty in Christ and is eating certain foods should not judge the one who has not experienced that freedom just yet. If the person is born again, God does receive them.

It is possible once we experience grace to start to look down on others who have not yet had the same revelation we have had and begin to judge them. Legalism will always judge and look down on others. This is what Jesus dealt with during His earthly ministry. The Pharisee and Sadducee were judgmental and criticized others.

**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.***

Grace is what makes us stand and once we experience grace it is not our job to get into pride and critique what others are doing. It is possible to go to a ditch with grace that we begin to judge others. This is a form of pride and the only one who can deal with a person is God.

**Romans 14:5** *One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.*

Anything we do to earn right standing with God will not be acceptable. If we are abstaining from foods for God to accept us then this is works and no man will be justified by the works of the law (Gal 2:16, Gal 3:11). The Jews who had converted to Christianity, did put faith in Jesus but had not experienced the fullness of their freedom from having to abstain from certain foods or observe certain days.

The problem is not what you are doing but why you are doing it. Again, this is between the person and God.

**Romans 14:6** *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.*

As long as our actions are out of personal conviction and not to earn salvation from the Lord than it is not bad. The Old Testament laws were only types and shadows looking forward to the cross and only served to represent what Jesus would accomplish.

**Romans 14:7** *For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.*

Anyone who thinks when they do something it only affects them is deceived. We are all connected and what we do does impact others. We are not on an island to ourself.

**Romans 14:8** *For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

Jesus came and took our position living under the law and fulfilled all 613 commands. He then died on our behalf and paid the penalty that sin deserved. Jesus died for all and He is Lord of all, either we confess it now or later, He is still Lord. God receives all who put faith in Christ and as long as our actions are a byproduct of putting faith in Jesus, there is no judgment towards that person.

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

Every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord wither you have received Him during your life time or not (Philip 2:11).

**Romans 14:10** *But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

Paul is referring to Jewish and Gentile Christians in this context. These people are born again but there is only one judge and God has received the person that trust in Jesus' finished works.

Everyone will stand before God and anyone who has fallen short of perfection removes themselves from judging anyone else.

Making a judgement is different than judging. There is wisdom in making judgements but not to judge. A judgment will recognize someone's behavior but judging is assuming why someone is doing something. We should remove ourselves from judging others' intentions.

**Romans 14:11** *For it is written: "as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*

This is a quotation taken from Is 45:23

Every knee will bow to Jesus, not their brothers or sisters in Christ. A believer should never make someone feel that they have to answer to them because they are passing judgement.

**Romans 14:12** *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

We should be ready to give an account to God, not our brothers or sisters in Christ (1 Peter 4:5).

In context, Paul is speaking about certain foods and days that the Jewish believers were abstaining from and observing. They may be considered the weaker brethren because they have not received a full revelation on their total liberty but the other brethren should not judge them for this because everyone will give an account to God.

No one is exempt from judgment day and if a person's actions are based off personal conviction, God has and will receive them but it is not for us to make these judgements.

**Romans 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.*

Stumbling block areas are things set in place to make someone fall or become offended. The Greek word for stumbling block is proskomma and means offence. If we know someone has not yet experienced their liberty to the fullness than the ones who have, they should not put others in a position where they could become offended.

If we chose to have a glass or wine but our brother may be tempted by wine, we should abstain from having a glass around that person. We do not want to become a stumbling block towards anyone.

In Romans chapter twelve, Paul spoke of love for the brethren and this goes right along with loving our brothers and sisters (Rom 12:10).

**Romans 14:14** *I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*

Peter had a vision of all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beast, creeping things, and birds of the air and the Lord told Peter to kill and eat and what God has cleansed he must not call unclean (Acts 10:13-15). This was a vision the Lord gave Peter in regards to the Gentiles coming into the covenant of promise and not being second class to the Jews (Eph 3:6). The dietary laws set in place under the Old Covenant were only to keep the Jews separate from other Nations even as they ate. The Jewish nation were a Holy people but now all who put faith in Jesus are a chosen people, a holy nation, and royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused (1 Tim 4:4). It is truly a doctrine of the devil to command people to abstain from certain foods.

**Romans 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.***

Love does not put others in position to stumble. Jesus has accepted them so we should not flaunt our liberty. This is true with believers now who have heard the full gospel and others who are only experiencing a portion of their salvation. We should not make our brethren feel less because they have not gotten a full revelation of all of Jesus accomplished for them on the cross.

Jesus died for all and we should be considerate of all.

**Romans 14:16 *Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;***

The ones who have experienced their complete freedom in Christ from having to adhere to certain days and foods are in a great position but they should not move into expressing their freedom where it could become an offense to those who have not.

**Romans 14:17 *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***

The kingdom of God is not about following rules and regulations. Once we see that our righteousness comes through faith in Jesus there is peace and joy that follows.

The Bible is not a book written to us on how well we can follow rules or what we can do for God, rather it is a love letter about what He has done for us. Peace and joy will always be a byproduct of right believing and that is in forsaking our own effort and self-righteousness.

**Romans 14:18 *For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.***

If a person who puts faith in Jesus' finished works and still chooses to observe days and abstain from certain meats, God still accepts them and we should as well.

**Romans 14:19 *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.***

The word pursuit in Greek is dioko and means to press toward. We should be pressing toward making peace with people and things which build others up not becoming an offense or finding things wrong.

**Romans 14:20** *Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.*

The context of this chapter is referring to doubtful or questionable things that are not specifically mentioned in the Word.

**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.*

If we know we are around the weaker brethren than we should be considerate and not place them in a position where they could stumble.

**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.*

Wither we are free from the dietary laws or we still are adhering to them even though we are born again, whatever we do we need to do it in faith.

**Romans 14:23** *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

We need to know why we are eating and observing days. Are we doing these things to be justified with God or are we eating in faith? Faith in Jesus finished works is the only thing that justifies; our own works or doing will not justify.

Works of faith are all actions that are based off something we believe. We should have actions and works but those are the fruit not the root.