

Romans

Lesson 19: Romans 14:1–12

The power of Christ is on display as He unifies Christians together in His church. However, not all Christians in the church at the same level of sanctification and conviction. Some are strong in the faith, and some are weak. Some are mature in the faith, and some are immature and need to grow. As Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 3:2, some still need milk because they are not ready for the meat. In Romans 14, Paul addresses some of those issues such as eating certain foods and observing certain days. The weaker Christians had a hard time letting go of certain religious rituals that they used to practice. The stronger believers did not have a problem with eating all foods and treated every day the same. Both the weak and the strong believers began to judge one another over their personal convictions. This should not be so in Christ's church. Let's dive in and see what Paul has to say about how the weak and the strong believers are to treat each other in the church.

➤ **Read Romans 14:1–4**

- *Weak in faith:* a believer who has a hard time letting go of ceremonial and ritual observations of the past.
1. According to verse 1, how are the strong supposed to treat the weak?
 2. According to verse 1, what are the matters that Paul is referring to?
 3. In verse 2, what specific example does Paul use?
 4. In verse 3, what reason does Paul give for not judging another believer?
 5. According to verse 4, who is every believer accountable to?

Application: What are some personal convictions that Christians disagree on today? How can you love someone who disagrees with your personal conviction?

➤ **Read Romans 14:5–9**

6. In verse 5, what specific example does Paul use?
7. According to verse 5, how does a person make a decision about matters that are not explicitly dictated in Scripture?
8. According to verse 6, what is the motivation for how a person acts upon his/her convictions?
9. In verses 7–8, what is Paul's conclusion about all that we do in life?

Application: When the Scripture is not explicit on an issue, how do you decide on what is right and wrong?

10. According to verse 9, who is Christ Lord of?

Application: What areas of life do you need to surrender to the lordship of Christ?

➤ **Read Romans 14:10–12**

11. In verse 10, how does Paul motivate us to not judge our fellow believer?

12. How does verse 11 show the universal lordship of Christ?

13. According to verse 12, what will every believer do at the judgment seat of Christ? (see Matthew 12:36)

Application: Read 1 Corinthians 5:12. How do you reconcile Paul's words to the Corinthians with what Paul has told us in Romans 14:1–12?

Application: In what ways does judgment toward a fellow believer reflect poorly on the gospel and Christ's church?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.