

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Romans 14

❖ Day 1

Read Romans 14.

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him,  
but not to quarrel over opinions.

<sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything,  
while the weak person eats only vegetables.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself,  
and none of us dies to himself.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<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>Why do you pass judgment on your brother?  
Or you, why do you despise your brother?

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 confess to God.”

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

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer,  
but rather decide never to put a stumbling block  
or hindrance in the way of a brother.

<sup>14</sup>I know

and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus

that nothing is unclean in itself,

but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

<sup>15</sup>For if your brother is grieved by what you eat,  
you are no longer walking in love.

By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

<sup>16</sup>So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

<sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking  
but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup>Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God  
and approved by men.

<sup>19</sup>So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

<sup>20</sup>Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

Everything is indeed clean,

but it is wrong

for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

<sup>21</sup>It is good

not to eat meat

or drink wine

or do anything

that causes your brother to stumble.

<sup>22</sup>The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God.

Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

<sup>23</sup>But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats,

because the eating is not from faith.

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

\*Reminder: the imperative commands are double-underlined in the diagram above.

1. List all of the affirmative commands for the one who is weak in faith.

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2. List all of the affirmative commands for the one who is not weak.
3. List all of the negative commands for the one who is weak in faith.
4. List all of the negative commands for the one who is not weak.
5. Who has the most commands, and what does this say about who bears more responsibility to maintain healthy relationships in the church?
6. Who is in danger of destruction, and what does this say about who bears more responsibility to maintain healthy relationships in the church?

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7. Who is Paul *primarily* addressing in verses 1-4, 5-9, 10-13, 14-22a, and 22b-23?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. At the end of verse 4, why is it significant that neither brother stands under his own power but is caused to stand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. In verse 6, what two issues are disagreed upon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Is the resolution different when the issue is different?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What does this imply for other disputes that are not specifically mentioned here?

❖ Day 2

Read Romans 14 again.

12. In verse 6, what attitude does Paul commend in both those who act and those who abstain?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Why is it significant that Christ is “Lord both of the dead and of the living”?

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14. Is the one with the free view regarding food necessarily also the one who feels free regarding the observance of days? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. The verbs in verse 10 are the same as in verse 3. Which brother despises and which passes judgment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. How do verses 10b-12 echo verse 4? And why do you think Paul emphasizes God as the judge more than once in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. How does Paul want them to primarily view each other? (What word is repeated four times in verses 10-15?) And how should this make a difference in the way they handle their differences?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. Does Paul have an opinion on which view of food he agrees with? From where in the text do you get your answer?
  - a. Does Paul directly correct the understanding of the view he differs with? How might this show that he is living according to his own instructions?

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19. Could the not-weak brother use verse 14 to win an argument? But is being in line with the truth the core issue?

20. What does Paul say is more important than being right?

❖ Day 3

Read Romans 14 again.

21. Is it only the not-weak who can be a hindrance? Explain.

22. According to verses 17-19, what are all believers supposed to pursue?

23. Describe what it would look like for each of them (weak and not-weak) to be pursuing righteousness, peace, joy, and mutual upbuilding.

24. If Paul thinks all meat is clean, why does he say it is sinful for some to eat meat?

25. Why is Paul not being inconsistent or contradictory?

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26. To be obedient to Paul's instructions in this passage, must the weak and the not-weak never discuss their differing views? Explain.
27. Summarize Romans 14 in one or two sentences. (Be sure to include both the what and the why.)
28. Look back at 1 Corinthians 8-10, and list several ways that you see how Paul's instructions to the Romans relate to Paul's instructions to the Corinthians.
29. In both letters, what is the main focus, and what is not the main focus? (Is the core issue about the food itself?)

In preparation for Sunday, pray that our congregation would resemble the true essence of the kingdom of God by loving each other well and pursuing righteousness, peace, joy, and mutual upbuilding.