

Take Your Orders From Headquarters

A Study on Romans 14

Romans 14:1, 2

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2) For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Some have misinterpreted the above verses to compare meat eating with vegetarianism. However, when we compare this chapter with Paul's counsel in 1Corinthians 8, we see many connections, such as:

1. Eating
2. Weakness
3. Stumbling block
4. Conscience

1Corinthians 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 2) And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 3) But if any man love God, the same is known of Him.

We may think we have more knowledge than others, and we may have, but we should seek to edify one another instead of contending with each other.

1Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 5) For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him.

The Jews only acknowledged one true God, therefore why would they have a guilty conscience in eating meats sacrificed to idol gods when they recognized that they don't even exist. God Himself has told us that there is not other God.

Isaiah 44:8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

In the following passage, Paul reveals that it is more important for each of us to live up to our conscience, however correctly we reckon right and wrong. God is after our heart and our willingness and commitment to follow what we believe is right, not judging us by how much knowledge we have, for He is able to reveal truth to us and set us straight if He has our heart.

Paul gives us an illustration of how not to be a stumbling block for others who imagine it a sin to eat foods sacrificed to idols. Even though our conscience does not believe it to be sin to eat those foods, we should be careful not to partake and possibly cause others to go against their conscience.

1Corinthians 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being

weak is defiled. 8) But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. 9) But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 10) For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11) And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12) But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13) Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Romans 14:3

Romans 14:3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

It is not our place to judge anyone for we cannot read the motives of the heart. God recognizes the finite knowledge of His people and does not judge them for their lack of knowledge, but reads the motives of their hearts whether they are committed to following the truth as He is able to reveal it to them.

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Romans 14:4

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Paul again appeals to us not to judge another for their convictions. If God accepts him for living up to the light he has, who are we to accuse him.

Romans 14:5

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

In the above verse Paul is revealing a principle that can be applied to many things. All should live up to that which they believed to be true. However, in the context in which this verse is found, Paul is addressing those who have come out of idolatry, the worship of idols to which they had sacrificed meat and drink offerings. They no doubt also celebrated religious holy days in honor of those pagan gods which they worshipped.

In keeping with the context which is not addressing the seventh day Sabbath, this principle would still apply to it. There will be people in Heaven with the right spirit and the wrong doctrine, but no one will be found in Heaven with the right doctrine and the wrong spirit or heart condition.

Romans 14:6

Romans 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

This passage in Romans 14 is not a study on vegetarianism versus meat eating nor is it a study on which day is the Sabbath, it is simply bringing out the lessons, 1) we should not judge others for their convictions, 2) we should not be a stumbling block to them by example, causing them to go against their conscience, 3) we must all live up to our conscience and sin not, and 4) God accepts us if we of a pure heart live up to our conscience whether it be right or wrong.

Romans 14:7

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Everything we do has an influence for good or for evil on others around us.

Romans 14:8

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

We therefore should have the assurance that if we do not go against our conscience and sin, we are accepted of the Lord and along to Him.

Romans 14:9

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

This is the reason for Christ's coming "in the likeness of our sinful flesh," who "condemned sin in in the flesh" (Romans 8:3), being "tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15), "for in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18), "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:4), "that He might be Lord both of the dead and living."

Romans 14:10

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Earlier on in Romans, Paul addressed this very same truth.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2) But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3) And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Romans 14:11

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

In the final judgment all will be convinced that God's judgments are true and faithful and all will finally confess to the righteousness of God's judgments.

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Romans 14:12

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 14:13

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Paul is summing up the principles addressed in this chapter. Judgment is not given to us regarding the consciences of others, and we should be careful not to cause our brethren to sin. Paul makes it even clearer in his message to the Corinthians in the following passage.

1Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 10) For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11) And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12) But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

Romans 14:14

Romans 14:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

We must not read into the context something that is not there. Paul is teaching that we should not judge one another. We may not consider it a sin to partake of something, but if our brother does, we should not be a stumbling block and cause someone to go against their conscience by our example. This verse is not to teach that every thing that crawls or walks on the earth is clean and can be eaten, but rather that we must live up to our consciences, and if we consider something to be unclean, we should not partake of it.

God has not changed His mind regarding clean and unclean meats, the health laws He gave to Israel are still relevant today.

Romans 14:15

Romans 14:15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

If we love our brethren, we shall be mindful not to cause him to sin against his conscience by tempting him to partake of that which he esteems unclean.

Romans 14:16

Romans 14:16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

We should be careful in our witness that we not be considered evil for doing something that is considered evil by someone else.

Romans 14:17

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The most important witness to be known for is that we demonstrate righteousness, peace and joy.

Romans 14:18

Romans 14:18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Proverbs 3:4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Romans 14:19

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Just as Christ who is our example, lived to bless others, we too should seek peace and minister to others by lifting them up.

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

1Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Paul not only taught these principles, but lived them out. He recognized that edification of the brethren was more important than winning an argument over what was clean and unclean.

Romans 14:20

Romans 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

Paul again emphasizes that if one goes against his conscience it is evil.

Romans 14:21

Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

Don't partake of those things your brother is convinced are evil.

Romans 14:22

Romans 14:22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

If one goes against his conviction it is sin, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Thus he condemns himself to damnation.

Romans 14:23

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.