

Romans 14:1-23

Lesson Seventeen

“Each person is accountable to Christ, not others. While the church must be uncompromising in its stand against activities expressly forbidden by Scripture (adultery, homosexuality, murder, theft), it should not create additional rules and regulations and give them equal standing with God’s law. Many times Christians base their moral judgments on opinion, personal dislikes, or cultural bias rather than on the Word of God.”

Peter O’Donnell

DAY ONE: Romans 14:1-23

1. Begin your day in prayer. Ask God to reveal new insights to your heart! Take your time and read **Romans 14:1-24** thoroughly. Now go back and read two more times - one time pulling out the facts about the weak and one time pulling out the facts about the strong. List your findings below:

The Weak	The Strong

2. The issue of Christian liberty vs. license is always confronting the believer and the church, as they desire to please their Lord. So many times the question is, “What can a believer do or not do socially and personally?” How do you answer this question for your life?
3. In **Romans 14**, Paul stresses that we are to avoid pointless divisions over matter of conscience versus the commands of Scripture. What is the one thing that we need in order to overlook others’ convictions or lack of them? Re-read **Romans 13:8-10** for your answer.

*“Paul, in this fourteenth Chapter, and the following one, directs his instruction chiefly ‘to the strong’, who can bear it, while indirectly showing the state of the ‘weak’!
Those weak in faith, like babes, are not able to take much nourishment at once; while those who are strong are often not willing to receive what seems to reflect upon their vigor.
To have faith before God, secretly, hiding it from the weaker brother, for his sake, until he becomes stronger, is not easy: it requires walking in love, which is always costly to the one loving!”* William R. Newell

DAY TWO: Romans 14:1-6

1. **Take some time and pray.** Be sure not to answer these questions in rote fashion. As you study please keep in mind that our righteousness is not by what we do, it is Christ’s righteousness that has been imputed to us ~ by His grace! Allow the Spirit to minister to your heart even if you are looking up a familiar Scripture! Read **Romans 14:1-6**.

2. Using your study tools, look up the following words and record the definitions:
 - a. **Receive** (4355):

 - b. **Disputes** (*disputations* - 1253):

 - c. **Doubtful** (1261):

3. According to **Romans 14:1-6**, what attitude are we to have toward others, whether they are mature Christians or babes in Christ?

4. Look up and record what **1 Corinthians 8:1b** says.
 - a. As way of review, what does the word **edify** mean?

5. Remember that the Church in Rome consisted of Jewish believers and Gentiles, just as the Church today is filled with people from various religious and cultural backgrounds. Paul’s point in addressing the Church at Rome was to get them to overlook their petty differences. Look up and record what Paul said in **1 Corinthians 13:7** about love.

6. Colossians sums up this attitude perfectly. Look up and read **Colossians 2:9-13**. Record your findings on the chart below:

What Are We “In Him”	What Is The Benefit of Being Found In Him?

Selah!

DAY THREE: Romans 14:7-13

1. Read **Romans 14:7-13**. Record any fresh insights that God has shown you.
2. Look up the following Scriptures and comment:
 - a. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20:**
 - b. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15:**
 - c. **Matthew 16:25-26:**
 - d. **Galatians 2:20:**
 - e. To whom do you belong – yourself or God?
3. According to **Romans 14:7-9** why did Christ die?
 - a. What should be our response?

“We all have an influence on other people. We don’t live in isolation chambers.”

Pastor Chuck Smith

4. Even though God is the Lord of all, and He is the righteous Judge, what trap does the Church fall into? (**Romans 14:10**)
 - a. Why is this wrong? **Romans 14:10-12**.
 - 1) Judgment leads to condemnation. Where does condemnation come from? (Remember back to **Romans 8:1**)
 - b. Who has judgment been given to in **John 5:22**?
5. There are two main judgments that the Bible speaks of. What judgment will true believers not have to endure? Look up the following Scriptures that tell of the Great White Throne Judgment that is reserved for non-believers (leads to condemnation).
 - a. **John 3:18:**
 - b. **John 5:24:**
 - c. **Revelation 20:11-15:**
 - 1) What is the end of the non-believer?

6. The other judgment spoken of in the Bible is referred to as “*the judgement seat of Christ*”. This comes from the Greek word “*bema*,” which was the place where the athletic games were judged ~ where the rewards were handed out at the end of the contest. What do the following Scriptures say about this judgment that is for believers only? (No condemnation).
 - a. What will be judged according to **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**:
 - b. Who will be judged according to **2 Corinthians 5:10**?
 - c. What does **Colossians 3:24** say about the reward?
 - d. What does **Revelation 22:12** say about the reward?
7. What did Jesus tell the religious leaders in **Matthew 6:1-5**?
 - a. Re-word this passage in modern terms.
8. With this in mind, we are not to *serve* with a goal for the reward. We serve God in response to what He has done for us. Look up **Revelation 4:10-11** and record what the 24-Elders do with the “crowns” they receive.
9. How can we keep from being judged by others in the Church? **1 Corinthians 11:31**.
10. What does **Matthew 7:1-5** say?
11. With all that we have studied today, what perspective does the Lord desire for His children to have?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**:
 - b. **2 Corinthians 4:18**:
 - c. **Hebrews 12:1-2**:
 - d. **Philippians 3:14**:

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”
Hebrews 12:28-29

DAY FOUR: Romans 14:14-20

1. Read **Romans 14:14-17**. Then look up the following words:
 - a. *Convinced* (persuaded - 3982):
 - b. *Unclean* (2839):
 - c. *Grieved* (3076):

“The question with the Jew was, whether it was lawful to eat the meat, which was offered in sacrifice to idols. In those sacrifices only a portion of the animal was offered, and the remainder was eaten by the worshippers, or offered for sale in the market like other meat. It became an inquiry whether it was lawful to eat this meat; and the question in the mind of a Jew would arise from the express command of his Law; (Exodus 34:15).” From Barnes' Notes.

2. Look up and Read **Acts 10:9-16**. What does God say about eating that which is unclean?
 - a. What does **1 Timothy 4:4** say?
 - b. What makes a man unclean according to **Matthew 15:17-20**:

3. What does **Romans 14:15** say about a person who grieves his brother by his actions?

4. Look up and read Paul's exhortation to us as Christians in **1 Corinthians 10:31-33**.

5. What is the Kingdom of God according to **Romans 14:17**?

- a.
- b.
- c.

1) How do we access these three?

6. What is the Kingdom of God NOT?

Challenge: Using your study tools, do a word study on the “*Kingdom of God*.” What do you learn about the nature of God?

7. According to **Romans 14:18** who are we serving when we are not causing others to stumble?

8. What are we to pursue according to **Romans 14:19**?

- a.
- b.

9. What is at risk of being destroyed if we, as Christians, focus too much on the temporal or physical realm?
10. What would be the motivating factor behind **Romans 14:21**?
- a. If there were no other reason not to drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or any particular thing but that it would stumble a brother, would that be enough for you not to do it?

“You can do a right thing in a wrong way. Your actions may be all right, but you can do it offensively, and that is an act of evil. You are destroying the work of Christ in a person instead of building him up in love.”

Pastor Chuck Smith

11. How are we to exercise our liberties according to **Romans 14:22**?
- a. How are we to have *faith*?
12. If our actions are not a result of faith, what does **Romans 14:23** say it is?

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

DAY FIVE: Romans 14:1-23

1. Many times Christians debate over what they can do within the boundaries of their Liberty in Christ. Instead of seeking what we can “get away with,” we should be seeking to please God. God gives each person a free will to do as he or she pleases, but He has given us guidelines in His Word. The Bible doesn’t specifically call out each possible behavior and thus leaves many so called “gray” areas for conduct. For the remainder of this week, we will look at a few questions that can help in determining whether these gray areas are pleasing to God or not in our own personal life. As you answer these questions, think of a particular “gray area” that you have considered before or had questions about. Alcohol? Movies? Music? Clothing? Use these questions to show you God’s position on your “gray area.”
- a. Does Scripture condone or condemn it?
- b. How would this affect my witness for Christ if others knew?
- c. Is it spiritually profitable for me to be doing this?
- d. Is there a chance that it could have control over me, if not now, in the future?
- e. Would it be something I would want to be doing when Christ returns?
- f. Would it glorify God?
- g. Would it hurt anyone else?
- h. Could I take Jesus with me?
- i. Can you add any questions that you should filter your actions through?

2. Has God shown you that you have compromised your walk with Him in any area of your life by looking at these questions? Spend some time in prayer and ask Him to search your heart and see if there be any wicked way in you!

3. Below are a few Scriptures for you to look up to encourage you to draw closer to God. Finish your study today meditating on these Scriptures and allowing God to speak to your heart. You may comment on the ones that speak to you and share them with your group.
 - a. **Matthew 5:13-16:**

 - b. **Psalm 119** (especially verses 9 & 11):

 - c. **John 15:4-7:**

 - d. **Colossians 2:6-7:**

 - e. **2 Timothy 2:20-22:**

 - f. **Philippians 3:7-10:**

*“Draw me close to You, never let me go
I lay it all down again, to hear you say that I’m Your friend
You are my desire, no one else will do
‘Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace
Help me find the way, bring me back to You Lord
Bring me back to You
You’re all I want, You’re all I’ve ever needed
You’re all I want, help me know You are near.”
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