

# When believers disagree

## The two first century issues addressed

- Eating meat which came from an animal of which a part had or was supposed to have been offered as a sacrifice to an idol.
  - <sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.  
*Romans 14:2 (ESV)*  
1 Corinthians 8 (See also Revelation 2:14, 20)

## The two first century issues addressed

- Observance of the Sabbath Day

- <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.

*Romans 14:5 (ESV)*

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. *Colossians 2:16 (ESV)*

Those less mature in the faith are to be accepted in the fellowship of believers but not allowed to cause disruption by generating frivolous arguments.

- <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.

*Romans 14:1-2 (ESV)*

- *Notice the difference here between an assessment and a judgment. Paul refers to those who would not eat meat as "weak in the faith". This is not a condemnation of them but an assessment of their walk with the Lord.*

More mature believers are not to look on the least mature with smug disdain.

- <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.

*Romans 14:3 (ESV)*

Less mature believers are not to condemn the more mature from their stance of ignorance.

- <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.

*Romans 14:3 (ESV)*

All are to realize that we have a master who has the authority to pass judgment.

- <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.

*Romans 14:4 (ESV)*

- <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."

*Romans 14:10-11 (ESV)*

Always realize that two people with the same passion for our Lord Jesus Christ may have disagreements.

- <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.

*Romans 14:5-6 (ESV)*

It's not about you.

- <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.  
*Romans 14:7-9 (ESV)*

Measure your words, attitudes and actions in such a way that those around you are encouraged and challenged to grow in their faith.

- <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. *Romans 14:13-19 (ESV)*

There are convictions about which you feel strongly but you do not have the freedom to impose them on others.

- <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. *Romans 14:22-23 (ESV)*

There are times when it is right to forego something we have a right to say or do for the building up of the body of Christ.

- <sup>1</sup> We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. *Romans 15:1-7 (ESV)*