

# Romans 14

## Lesson 18

Different people have different convictions. Many strongly feel their convictions. What are we to do when we have convictions that others do not? Romans 14 challenges us to unity rather than disputes, to accepting and loving one another in spite of differences. May the Lord impress upon you in an even deeper way **His** convictions as you study this chapter. May love be the ruling conviction in your life.

### DAY ONE: Read Romans 14

1. Read through this week's verses.
  - a. Romans 14 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section. How would you title each section?

**Verses 1-13**

**Verses 14-23**

2. Mark the key words listed below, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Romans 14.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, faith, let, and judge*

New to this lesson: *eat(s)*

Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used several times in Romans 14. Record one conclusion that Paul arrived at and what it was based on.
4. Now, choose a key word from the list in question #2 and make a list of what the text reveals about that word. Include the referenced verse(s) in parenthesis at the right of each item.

## DAY TWO: Read Romans 14:1-7

1. In Romans 14 we encounter a problem among believers concerning their Christian liberty. Some believers were being stumbled by others' liberty concerning food, days, and drink. The instruction given in this chapter applies to all Christians. We could avoid these conflicts among believers if we each determined in our hearts to apply the basic principles of Romans 14, 15:1-7. What instruction about this is given in Romans 14:1?
  - a. Observe the word *receive* in this verse. Now observe the word *receive* in Romans 15:7. How does this expand your understanding of the word *receive*?
  - b. Those *weak in the faith* (spiritually immature) are to be *received*. They should be received and loved rather than be debated with. How would applying this eliminate the problem stemming from these conflicts?
2. *One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables* (Romans 14:2 NIV). What instruction is given about this in verse 3?
  - a. According to Romans 14:4, why don't believers have a right to *judge* those with differing convictions?
3. Record from Romans 14:5a the second issue of contention Paul addressed.
  - a. According to Romans 14:5b, what principle should be followed?
    - 1.) On any issue that is clearly addressed in Scripture (i.e. adultery, lying, etc.) there is no doubt whether it is right or wrong. But, when deciding whether something not addressed in Scripture is right or wrong, someone has said, "When in doubt, don't." Comment on this.
4. Paul had not finished the subject of judging others. Yet, at this point he wrote a summary statement on these two controversial issues. What did he conclude in Romans 14:6,7?

## DAY THREE: Read Romans 14:8-12

1. While stressing that believers are not to judge one another, Paul pointed out in Romans 14:7 that no man *lives or dies to himself*. He expands this thought in Romans 14:8,9. What did he say about this?
  - a. What does 2 Corinthians 5:15 add to this?
  - b. Express what this means to you today.
2. Read Romans 14:10. Notice Paul asked two convicting questions. What are they?
  - a. What should be the deterrent according to the last sentence of this verse?
  - b. What does 2 Corinthians 5:10 reveal about this *judgment seat*?
  - c. In what way should this help us not to judge others?
3. Contemplate Romans 14:11, which is taken from Isaiah 45:23. Think about what it will be like when this is fulfilled. Write your thoughts here.
  - a. In light of this, consider Romans 14:12 as you write it here.
    - 1.) Reflect on this verse as you write your name over the phrase *each of us*.
      - a.) How should this influence your daily living?

## DAY FOUR: Read Romans 14:13-18

1. Paul had clearly declared that God alone has the right to judge. In Romans 14:13a he admonished every believer *let us not judge one another anymore*. What are we to *rather resolve*? Romans 14:13b
  - a. Think for a moment about the phrases *stumbling block* and *cause to fall* in relationship to your conduct and its effect on those around you. How should this speak to us about:
    - 1.) examining our life instead of other's lives
    - 2.) being more conscious of others when making personal choices
2. Record from Romans 14:14a what Paul said he *knew*.
  - a. What understanding does 1 Timothy 4:4,5 give to this?
  - b. Although *there is nothing unclean of itself*, what does Paul point out in Romans 14:14b?
3. What principles concerning our liberty are given in Romans 14:15,16? You may want to use other versions to help.
4. Romans 14:17 is a key verse in this context. How does this verse describe the *kingdom of God*?
5. *For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking*. When you think about the things of heaven, what kinds of things do you think are important?
  - a. What will be the results (according to Romans 14:18) when our life reflects this?

## DAY FIVE: Read Romans 14:19-23

1. If we want the blessing of Romans 14:18, what should we do according to Romans 14:19?

a. Consider what we must *pursue*. What is a practical way we can do each of these things?

2. Read Romans 14:20,21 and compare it to 1 Corinthians 8:9,13. What do you learn from these verses that will help you in making right choices?

a. *Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, there is nothing wrong with these things in themselves. But it is wrong to eat anything if it makes another person stumble* (verse 20 NLT). Think about the word *anything* as it is used in this verse. How does this speak to you about your activities and conduct?

3. Observe and then write in your own word Paul's closing remarks in the following verses:

a. Romans 14:22 (*faith* here refers to the freedom of eating meat)

b. Romans 14:23

Challenge: Cross-references are verses found in other places of the Bible that relate to the verse(s) being studied. Find and record some cross-references to one or some of the verses in this week's lesson.

*The right thing to do is to quit eating meat or drinking wine  
Or doing anything else that offends your brother or makes him sin.*

*- Romans 14:21 TLB*



## DAY SIX: Review Romans 14

1. Recall one thought or insight from your study of Romans 14 about the following:
  - a. judging others
  - b. personal convictions
  - c. freedom in Christ
  - d. kingdom of God
2. What life-style rules and issues do Christians argue about today?
3. How do the principles dealt with in this lesson speak to you about self-denial for the sake of others?
4. Explain, as you would to a new believer, the guidelines taught in Romans 14 for making decisions concerning matters that are not addressed in Scripture.
5. How can Christians share a spirit of unity despite having different views on certain practices?
6. What verse or thought impressed you the most as you studied Romans 14? Why?

*So let us then definitely aim for and eagerly pursue what makes for harmony  
And for mutual upbuilding (edification and development) of one another.*

*- Romans 14:19 Amplified*