

# Romans 14 – Teaching Notes

## Acceptance and Harmony in the Body of Christ

### Key words and themes in this chapter

- Acceptance
- Contempt
- Love
- Judgment/criticism
- Christian Maturity

### VS 1-4 FOOD

- **Accept** one who is weak in the faith
- Do not hold **contempt**
- Do not pass **judgment**
- Meat and vegetables
- Contempt repeated in verse three
- Judgment repeated in verse three
- What is acceptable to God

All of us are free to eat what we want for God has declared all foods clean. However, each person should give grace and space to those who differ because God accepts each person's decision equally.

### Mark 7:18-19

And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup> since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?”<sup>[f]</sup> (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

### 1 Timothy 4:4-5

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

### Acts 10:13-15

And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” It is not up to us to judge the decisions of what others decide.

- Is it more important to express your opinion and try to prove yourself right or to build up the body of Christ and see harmony?
- Whose job is it to judge? God is the ultimate judge in these matters.

## **VS 5-6        Special Days**

### **Sabbath vs Sunday**

Let each do as they are convinced in their hearts before the Lord

Colossians 2:13-16

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities<sup>[b]</sup> and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. <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.

- God has dealt with your past sins – forgiven us all trespasses
- God has cancelled the Law of Moses – legal demands
- God has disarmed Satan
- So, we are now FREE FROM THE LAW and all the requirements

Paul does not say “don’t observe special days” but plainly teaches that each of us are free to decide who we will celebrate and worship the Lord from our hearts

### **Sabbath Notes**

- This day first revealed in creation – Genesis 2:3
- Sabbath was established BEFORE the law
- Sabbath was commanded in the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20)
- Sabbath was a distinctive for the Jews against the culture around them
- Sabbath was for their benefit – rest for man and beast

### **Jesus and the Sabbath**

- Jesus healed 7 times on the Sabbath
- Jesus lifted human need as having precedence against the ceremonial law
- The Sabbath was made for man
- Jesus is Lord over the Sabbath

Matthew 12:2-14 (read)

## **VS 7-9        We Live and Die in the Lord**

Book of Common Prayer, Page 249: Burial of the Dead

## **VS 10-12      Our Accountability Before the Lord**

- Don't Judge
- Don't Hold Contempt
- Bema Seat of Judgment

## **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**

So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

## **VS 13-14      No Stumbling Blocks**

## **VS 15 - 16      Love is the Motivation**

## **VS 17            Kingdom of God is Righteousness, Joy and Peace in the Holy Spirit**

## **VS 18 – 23      The Application**

- The one who lives in the kingdom is acceptable to God
- Don't tear down the work of God for the sake of food (or special days)?
- Are you building up or are you causing others to stumble?
- Your faith and behavior should be of your own personal convictions
- Whatever is not of faith is sin