



ROMANS 14

Romans 14 addresses pursuing peace with one another in matters of liberty. Matters of liberty are things we may do about which God is indifferent. But God is not indifferent about how we deal with each other in those matters of liberty. The instruction of this context fits with the instruction of 1 Corinthians 8 and 10. This context is not talking about Christians' interaction with each other in matters of sin and error.

ROMANS 14

How can we know that the instruction given in chapter 14 is about matters indifferent to God?

Throughout the context, we may observe that the descriptions of the matters and the actions commanded toward one another are different than the descriptions of and the actions commanded toward one other regarding sin and error. For example, consider these phrases: “receive one” (v.1), “for God has received him” (v.3), “God is able to make him stand” (v.4), “let each be fully convinced in his own mind” (v.5), “to the Lord” (v.6-8), “let us not judge one another any longer” (v.13), “nothing unclean of itself” (v.14), “acceptable to God” (v.18), “all things are pure” (v.20), and “have it to yourself before God” (v.22). Such phrases do not describe sin and error, God’s response to it, nor what God expects of His children toward it. Contrast that with plain instruction regarding sin and error in contexts such as 1 Corinthians 5:1-11, Ephesians 5:11, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 John 9-11.

ROMANS 14:1-4

RECEIVE THE WEAK – THE ONE WHO DOES NOT PRACTICE THE LIBERTY

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

{2} For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

{3} Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

{4} Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.”



ROMANS 14:5-6

WHETHER PRACTICE LIBERTY OR NOT: UNTO THE LORD

“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

{6} He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.”



ROMANS 14:7-9

WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE, IT IS UNTO THE LORD

“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

{8} For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.

{9} For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”