



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 14:7-9

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.”

ROMANS 14:10-13

DO NOT CONDEMN BROTHER WHO IS RIGHT WITH HIS JUDGE

“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

{11} For it is written:

‘As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God.’

{12} So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

{13} Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.”

ROMANS 14:14-18

CIRCUMSTANCES TO NOT PRACTICE LIBERTY

“I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

{15} Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

{16} Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

{17} for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

{18} For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.”