



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 14:14-18

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.”

ROMANS 14:19-21

PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

{20} Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.

{21} It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.”



ROMANS 14:22-23

WHO IS BLESSED AND WHO IS CONDEMNED

“Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

{23} But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”

ROMANS 15:1-7

UNSELFISHNESS IN LIBERTIES TO THE GLORY OF GOD

“We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

{2} Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

{3} For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.’

{4} For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

{5} Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

{6} that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

{7} Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”