

When Christians Judge and Trip One Another
Romans 14

Introduction

Three disagreements among the Christians in Rome:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

These were issues of practical Christian living rather than absolute

_____.

Even though these issues are very important (14:23), Paul calls these things _____ (14:1).

Do Not Regard with Contempt (14:3)

1 Corinthians 1:28

Only Judge Appropriately (14:4)

Appropriate judging:

Realizes the importance of examining everything carefully (1 Cor. 2:15; 1 Thes. 5:21), reaching faith-based conclusions about Christian living decisions (Rom. 14:5, 22-23), discerning good from evil (Heb. 5:14), abstaining from every kind of evil (1 Thes. 5:22), seeking to understand the Lord's will (Eph. 5:17), and approving the things that are excellent (1 Thes. 5:21).
Recognizes that one's own opinions are fallible (Rom. 14:1)
Doubts one's own ability to discern based on appearances (John 7:24, 8:14-15)
Listens carefully and seeks first-hand information (John 7:51)
Does not try to judge another's conscience by one's own (1 Cor. 10:29)
Uses right criteria by yielding to the only true standard: God's Word (John 7:24; James 4:11)
Is serious about one's own sin (Rom. 2:1; Matt. 7:3)
Knows that we will all face God's judgment (Rom. 2:3, 14:12, James 5:9)
Knows that God's mercy to us is related to our mercy to others (Matt. 7:2, 18:33-35; James 2:13)
Yields to the only true Judge (1 Cor. 4:4-5, James 4:12)
Waits patiently for the timing of God's judgment, not wishing for anyone to eternally perish (1 Cor. 4:5, 2 Pet. 3:9)
Discerns and deals with wickedness in the church, always seeking the goal of restoration and reconciliation (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
Does not slander, complain, or speak against others (1 Cor. 10:28, James 4:11, 5:9)

Don't Put an Obstacle in Your Brother's Way (14:13-23)

Matthew 5:29 If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Matthew 18:6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Luke 17:1 It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come!

1 Corinthians 8:13 says Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.