

## Romans 14:1-15

**Romans Chapter 14 overview:** This chapter discusses Christians and how we treat other people. It can be called the consideration chapter; consider others before you consider yourself. This chapter deals with Christians personal relationships with other Gentiles and Christians. This could be called the "**Consideration Chapter**" because this whole chapter deals with Christians, not lost people. We can also call it "**Practical Christianity**." If we applied all the concepts in this chapter to our personal lives and our churches, it would be fabulous!

- 1 *But him that is weak in faith receive ye, yet not for decision of scruples.* Those who are weak in faith are just new Christians. They haven't grown in the word of God yet. These are people who hold beliefs that are not founded in scripture. If scripture is definitive in a point, then it is not up for discussion. If a situation is not definitively covered in scripture, then we'll discuss it. Don't make things a point of contention that is clearly spelled out in scripture. Don't argue about things that are spelled out in scripture.
- 2 *One man hath faith to eat all things; but he that is weak eateth herbs.* This is about your diet. You should eat everything except blood. Being a vegetarian is by personal choice, not God's rule.
- 3 *Let not him that eateth set at nought him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.* People who are vegetarians may be so by choice, but it is clearly not mandated in scripture. In verse 2, it clearly says that a man who has faith may eat all things, and a man who eats only herbs is weak. Don't argue about it. It's stated clearly and definitively in scripture right here. God has received each person into His body of believers as they are, meateaters and vegetarians alike. We don't need to split up about it, we don't need to argue about it.
- 4 *Who art thou that judgest the servant of another? to his own lord he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be made to stand; for the Lord hath power to make him stand.* Not a single person has a right to judge another person about these things that are clearly spelled out in scripture. If someone is a vegetarian, we are instructed to still love him as a fellow Christian.
- 5 *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind.* Some of you think one day is more important than another, but that's your prerogative. But what we should really say as Christians is that every day is the Lord's Day, and every day is special unto the Lord. You will not find it anywhere in scripture that you have to meet in church on Sunday and those who meet on Monday are no more right or wrong than those who meet on Sunday. The scripture says definitively that we don't have to obey the Sabbath anymore as in the Old Testament. But don't be judging each other as Christians. It divides us unnecessarily. "Fully persuaded" means you believe within yourself that what you're doing is right by scriptures and the right thing for you to do. The Jewish Sabbath is Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. If

- you turn on a light switch after Friday sundown, the Sabbath is broken. It was given to Israel as a sign between the Jews and God. It was never given to the Gentiles.
- 6 *He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord: and he that eateth, eateth unto the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, unto the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.* You sit down at your meal, bless the Lord and thank Him for the meal you get, regardless if it contains meat or is vegetarian. Thank the Lord, period. How simple is that?
- 7 *For none of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself.*
- 8 *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.* Paul says in verse 7-9, you are living and dying to the Lord. Man is not your judge.
- 9 *For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.* If you are God's and you die, you belong to God. If you are alive and saved, you belong to the Lord. You are judged by God, not man. So don't worry about what people say or think. It's the Lord you need to worry about.
- 10 *But thou, why dost thou judge thy brother? or thou again, why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of God.* Why do you judge your brother on these issues? "Nought" in the Greek means you set someone aside and think they are worthless because you don't agree with them on some issue listed in scripture. We should never ever do that.
- 11 *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, to me every knee shall bow, And every tongue shall confess to God.* We will all stand before the judgement seat of God and be judged by Jesus Christ. He's the judge, not man.
- 12 *So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.* You don't have to please anyone except Jesus Christ. Not your boss, not your coworkers, not your customers. If you perform your job in a way that is pleasing to the Lord, everyone else will be pleased.
- 13 *Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge ye this rather, that no man put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion of falling.* In Paul's time they were having some bitter arguments about all the gods they had. In present time, one man had an issue with drinking coffee because somewhere along the line he got in his head that drinking coffee is a sin. Out of respect for a Christian brother, whenever he came over we just didn't make coffee or mention it. This is a practical application of not putting a stumbling block in front of someone. Be aware of those who are weaker than you. Don't hurt them, don't ridicule them. Just respect them.
- 14 *I know, and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean of itself: save that to him who accounteth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.* Nothing is unclean to itself unless someone believes it is clean or unclean. Everything is clean when there is no belief associated to it. It is your personal belief that makes something clean or unclean.
- 15 *For if because of meat thy brother is grieved, thou walkest no longer in love. Destroy not with thy meat him for whom Christ died.* The first thing we are to consider about every other creature is that they belong to God, and what we do that affects them is far more important than how the creature pleases us. Always consider the other person first before you do anything and before you do anything. If you live by that rule, you will live a life that will please God.