

“Christian Liberty” Romans 14:1-13

Romans 14:1–13 (NKJV)

14 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.

⁵ 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. ⁷ 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. ¹⁰ 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 14:1–13 (NKJV)

Christian liberty has to do with how we handle what calls “disputes over doubtful things.”

I. *What doubtful things is Paul speaking about here?*

1. *Spiritual vegetarians -*

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A. *Meat offered to idols was cheaper, and an idol was nothing, some Christians felt free to buy this less expensive meat, others were horrified.*

B. *Paul would have them not fight ...*

C. *Today some still eat only veggies for different reasons:*

- *Genesis 1 Diet –*

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Genesis 1:29 (NKJV)

Veggies only the BEST! Counter to this - Genesis 9:3 (NKJV)

³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

- *Hebrew, no pork, no shellfish diet –*

⁴⁶ ‘This *is* the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, ⁴⁷ to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.’ ” Leviticus 11:46-47 (NKJV)

Counter –

¹³ And a voice came to him, **“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”** ¹⁴ But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, **“What God has cleansed you must not call common.”** ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again. Acts 10:13–16 (NKJV)

- *Body a temple no sugar diet –*

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV)

⁵ He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant. Psalm 111:5 (NKJV)

Glenn vs Taka Boom at Glen Eyrie...



2. *Holidays and Holy Days -*

⁵ 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*. Romans 14:5-6 A (NKJV)

- *Israel had many holidays, even Biblical ones, like the Passover, they were commanded to celebrate!*
- *Sunday, Lord's Day / Christian Sabbath*

What can I do on Sunday? Should I celebrate Christmas? Should I have a tree? Easter? Eggs? The resurrection ...

Father's Day / Mother's Day / Thanksgiving ...

Regular Church Attendance does not fit in this category –

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay*," says the Lord. And again, "*The LORD will judge His people*." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:24–31 (NKJV)

3. *Today, I could add –*

A. *Drinking – alcohol ...*

¹⁵ **And wine *that* makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make *his* face shine, And bread *which* strengthens man's heart. Psalm 104:15 (NKJV)**

B. *Watching movies –*

³ **I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. Psalm 101:3 (NKJV)**

C. *Watching R rated movies – The rating was put there by men, not God. Time spent watching is the greater evil. American Family Association*

James Boice – Movies on Sunday Evening...

D. *Beaches / swimming / bathing suits –*

E. *Going into a bar – I would not do it. But I have had friends who would witness in a bar.*

F. *Shopping at certain stores –*

G. *Personal devotions / reading a certain amount of Scripture daily - How many chapters of the Bible do you read a day?*

H. *Dancing –*

³ **Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. Psalm 149:3–4 (NKJV)**

I. Clothing / clothing at church –

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

1. *Our literal physical clothing is a Christian liberty, Jesus did not wear a tie*
2. *Focus on how you dress spiritually!*

J. Smoking, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vape, marijuana –

“Many tales are told about the greatest preacher of the nineteenth century, England’s Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He ruffled the feathers of not a few Christians in his day by his lifestyle choices—particularly his penchant for fine cigars. Compared to today, there was relatively little public awareness of the ill effects of tobacco on the human body, but smoking was shunned nonetheless by many Christians—but not Spurgeon. On one occasion, a young man approached Spurgeon and asked what he should do about a box of cigars he had been given. “Give them to me,” Spurgeon replied, “and I will smoke them to the glory of God.” Ken Boa

K. Medicine / Doctors / Christian or non-Christian doctors –

II. Whatever our views we are to live to the Lord, God will judge us -

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. ⁷ 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. ¹⁰ 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 14:1–13 (NKJV)

1. We live to the LORD

2. We will be judged by God regarding how we live

3. Seek to please the LORD and let Scripture and your conscience be your guide!

Arnold A. Brevick