

**How to Kill a New Christian PT1
(Peoples Valley Baptist Church)**

Romans 14:1-12 KJV

August 30, 2009 – Elu 10, 5769

1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Intro: The church of Jesus Christ is made up of individuals at every possible level of spirituality. There are those who are fully aware of the freedom and the liberty that they enjoy in Jesus and they live accordingly.

On the other end of the spectrum are those who walk in fear of becoming defiled with the contamination of the world and they live accordingly. If that were the end of it, there would be no problem. However, those who realize and enjoy their liberty in Jesus are constantly being judged by those who think they live too loose of a life.

While those who are strict in their application of biblical standards are constantly being criticized by those who have adopted a looser standard. One group is called liberal and compromisers, while the other group is legalistic and harsh.

Paul seeks to find a balance in the verses we have read this evening. You see, there are some things in life that are crystal clear! The Bible is plain when it tells us that we should not drink, use drugs, curse, commit adultery, kill, steal, lie, etc.

These things are beyond debate and people who practice such things are sinners. That is not my judgment, but that is a clear statement of the Word of God. However, there are other areas of life that are not so clear.

For instance, how long should a man's hair be? Should men wear beards and mustaches? Should women wear pants? Should Christians watch TV? Should believers go to the movies? You might be surprised to hear it, but these are issues that people struggle over every day of their lives.

This morning Paul gives us some insight into handling these doubtful areas of our lives. At the very least, he helps us to know how to deal with that brother or sister in Christ who has a different opinion than ours.

This is a sermon about the dangers of a judgmental spirit.

Even though this problem exists outside the church, my focus in this message is inside the church.

I want us to think about the tendency we all have to criticize people who don't do or say things the way we think they ought to be said or done.

Romans 14:1-12 contains three basic exhortations:

Principle # 1: Accept one another—God has accepted you! (vv. 1-4)

I. **WE ARE TO AVOID FOOLISH JUDGMENT v. 1-4**

Principle # 2: Have your own convictions—Jesus is your Lord (vv. 5-9).

II. WE ARE TO ASPIRE TO FAITHFUL JUDGMENT v. 5-9

1. We Are to Respect His Principles – v. 3
2. We Are to Respect His Position – v. 4
 - A. In the Matter of Convictions – v. 5
 - B. In the Matter of Consecration – v. 6
 - C. In the Matter of Consequences – v. 7-9

Principle # 3: Don't judge others—We will each answer to God (vv. 10-12).

III. WE ARE TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE JUDGMENT v. 10-12

- A. Judgment Is Restricted Here – v. 10a
 - a) You do things they don't do or
 - b) You don't do things they routinely do.
- B. Judgment Is Restricted Here – v. 10a
- C. Judgment Is Rendered There – v. 10b-12

CONCLUSION

I. Five Important Observations

- A. Christians Often Disagree With Each Other.
- B. Disagreement is Not Always Wrong or Sinful
- C. We Must Distinguish Between Primary & Secondary Issues.
- D. Accepting Others Requires Humility Above All Other Virtues.
- E. If We Truly Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, We Can Let Him Deal with Those Who Disagree with Us.

II. 7 Practical Ways to Apply This Message

- A. Make Up Your Own Mind.
- B. Give Others the Right to do the Same.
- C. Refuse to Criticize Those Who See Things Differently.
- D. Enlarge Your Circle of Friends.
- E. Focus on Things that Unite Us, Not on Things that Divide Us.
- F. Live So That No One Can Criticize Your Decisions.
- G. Get Your Own House in Order So That You Have Nothing to Fear When You Stand Before God!