

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.* ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*. ³ Let not the one who eats regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and let not the one who does not eat judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

⁷ For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; ⁸ for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

(Romans 14:1-12)

Accept One Another

Romans 14:1-15:13

Division in the Church:

- A division between the "strong" and "weak" over diet and days
 - likely a division between Jewish and Gentile believers over continuing loyalty to the Mosaic Law
 - Paul is not concerned with the correctness of either group but with mutual acceptance, peace and the building up of one another

In Honor of the Lord

1. Do not judge another's servant
 - we are not to judge fellow-believers in matters not prohibited or prescribed by Scripture
 - it is the Lord, not fellow-believers, who will ultimately determine the acceptability of our behavior

In Honor of the Lord

2. Be convinced in your own mind

- this observance of certain days was not a form of legalism or false asceticism (*unlike other examples*)

⁹But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? ¹⁰You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

(Galatians 4:9-11)

¹⁶Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

(Colossians 2:16-17)

In Honor of the Lord

2. Be convinced in your own mind

- this observance of certain days was not a form of legalism or false asceticism (*unlike other examples*)
- not a demand for uniformity but to be fully assured in one's own mind
- be convinced that your behavior is (1) not sin; (2) honors the Lord; (3) is the best thing you can do in this situation

In Honor of the Lord

3. Seek to honor the Lord in all things

- recognize that Christians on opposite sides of these matters are honoring the Lord in what they do
- the ability to sincerely give thanks to God for what we do indicates that this behavior honors the Lord

In Honor of the Lord

➤ Application Today:

- we are to accept one another in our differing practices; behaviors that are not directly forbidden or commanded in Scripture but are matters of conscience (informed by our faith)