

Bible Study
Romans 14 (1)

It is interesting how much attention this subject receives in Scripture. The subject of Christian liberty has stirred up much strife within the congregations. So along with this chapter 14 (which actually runs into Ch. 15:7) read 1 Cor. 10 and Galatians 5.

1. Who are meant with the 'weak in the faith?'
2. What is meant with 'receiving them?' (compare with Romans 15:7)
3. How are we to understand "a doubtful disputation?"
4. The matters that are bringing a controversy in Rome are not matters of *moral* rights and wrong. The contentions are about things that in themselves *morally indifferent*.
 - a. What were the indifferent matters among the Romans (and Corinthians, Galatians)?
 - b. What are the indifferent matters within the Christian churches today? (Don't just limit your thoughts to our own local church/denomination.)
 - c. Are 'traditions we value' matters that fall under the indifferent?
5. If you were the one who feels it is sin to 'do something that God has not specified as sin', what does God command you *to do and not to do* within the fellowship of your church? (Collect the various points of teachings from the chapter)
6. If you were the one who feels something is not a sin while others do feel it so, what does God command you *to do and not to do* within the fellowship of your church? (Collect the various points of teachings from the chapter)
7. If someone is fully persuaded in his own mind about his or her practice as vs. 5 & 8 indicate (and is able to explain that), what should be our response and level of fellowship with them?
8. In vs. 12 we read we have to give an account of ourselves and how we lived within the area of Christian liberty before God's judgment seat. How should this prospect influence us when we think about explaining to Him why we did in area of handling the Christian liberty in ourselves and fellow believers?
9. In vs. 13-16 Paul addressed the strong in the faith. They are to walk charitably towards the weak in the faith. Does that mean that in every church the 'weak in the faith' sets the standard as we are to avoid grieving them?
10. Within our church family we don't only have *weak in the faith* and *strong in the faith*. We sadly also have many *without* faith. They can be 'members of the church' as adults or baptized seed. They have no heart of love for God and will resist 'the rules' as being traditions or old-fashioned.
 - a. Are we to use this instruction of Paul and apply to them also?
 - b. How can we best reach (win?) these younger people who grow up with a different cultural surrounding than we have who are past the 50?