

**EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE
ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD
ROMANS 14:1-23**

Text: Romans 14:12

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¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Introduction:

The church is made up of individuals at every possible level of spirituality.

One group is called liberal and compromisers, while the other group is legalistic and harsh.

In this passage we see the unhappy contention which had broken out in the church.

The Lord had foretold that offences would come; and, it did.

There was a difference among them about the distinction of meats and days; these are the two things specified.

Some of the members of the church at Rome were Gentiles, and others were Jews.

Now those that had been Jews were trained up in the observance of the ceremonial traditions about the eating of certain meats and the observance of special days.

These traditions could hardly be removed even after they turned to Christ.

Paul seeks to find a balance in these verses.

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 involved in sinful things.

That is not a matter of judgment, but that is a clear statement of the Word of God.

However, there are other areas of life that are not so clear. But there are issues that people struggle with every day of their lives.

In this passage, Paul gives us insight into handling these troubling areas of our lives and what our approach should be to those who opinion differs from ours.

Notice:

1. NO BELIEVER SHOULD BE JUDGED BY ANOTHER BELIEVER DOWN HERE (14:1-8, 13-23)

Romans 14:1-8

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.

Romans 14:13-23

¹³ Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way. ¹⁴ I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean. ¹⁵ But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably.

Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Let not then your good be evil spoken of: ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. ¹⁹ Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. ²⁰ For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence. ²¹ *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. ²² Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. ²³ And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

A. We Are to Be Critical of Others Standards (vs. 1-8)

1. The rules (vs. 1-6)

- Don't judge in the matter of diet (1-4, 6b)

Some felt that eating meat or any food that had been that had been sacrificed to idols.

Paul speaks of a situation that was prevalent in the early church. There were individuals who had been saved out of extreme paganism.

These people had turned their backs on idolatry, and would not dare go anywhere near anything associated with that lifestyle.

On the other hand, in the early church who had been shown, through the Gospel, that they had the liberty to eat meats, even if those meats had been sacrifices to idols. They knew the idols were not real and that the meat was just that: meat!

Paul dealt with this a length in 1 Corinthians 8:1-10:33

The focus of these verses is the weaker brother, that one who is more easily offended by the practices of another.

We must understand that there are people all around us who see things differently than we do.

Not everyone is going to agree with your standards or mine and that is OK!

- Don't judge in the matter of days

Some thought that there some days more sacred than others.

B. Don't Corrupt Our Liberty (vs. 13-23)

- The mature Christian is not to become a stumbling block (vs. 13-18)

Romans 14:13-18

¹³ Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in

his brother's way. ¹⁴ I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean. ¹⁵ But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Let not then your good be evil spoken of: ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Don't permit good and lawful things to be viewed as evil and lawless (vs. 13-16)

Love is more important than liberty (vs. 17-18)

- The mature Christian should be a stepping stone (vs. 19-23)

Romans 14:19-23

¹⁹ Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. ²⁰ For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence. ²¹ *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. ²² Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. ²³ And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

2. EVERY BELIEVER WILL BE JUDGED BY THE SAVIOR UP THERE (14:9-12)

Close:

How to Decide Questionable Things

Many have asked the question how can one determine whether something is right or wrong if the Bible has little or nothing to say about it?

We must remember two things regarding the Bible.

God chose to reveal to Bible writers what He wanted men to know.

The Bible is not a revelation of what God knows, but a revelation of what God wants men to know.

Since the Bible does not give detailed answers to every question the believer will face, what then does he do regarding things not spelled out in Scriptures?

Now while the Bible does not give all the specific details regarding what a Christian should and should not do, it does give guidelines by which every honest Christian can make the right decision regarding questionable things.

1. ARE YOU WILLING TO DO RIGHT ONCE YOU KNOW GOD'S WILL?

John 7:17

¹⁷ If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

- One cannot approach God with the attitude, Lord let me know whether this is right or wrong, and I will decide if I want to it or not. We must have the attitude, Lord I don't know whether this is right or wrong; but if you will let me know for sure, I will do right regardless of what others say or what my preferences are.

2. DOES IT AGREE WITH ALL THE SCRIPTURE HAS TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT?

2 Peter 1:20

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

- Scripture is not to be isolated and interrupted without considering all that the Bible has to say on the subject.
- A good rule to follow is: never use an obscure passage to contradict several clear passages.

3. HAVE YOU PRAYED ABOUT IT?

- There is more you can do after you pray, but there is nothing more you can do until you pray.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Matthew 7:8

⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

4. DO HAVE THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Romans 8:14

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Acts 13:1-2

¹ Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- Here are cases where the Holy Spirit led men to a certain place to work.

Acts 16:6-8

⁶ Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word

in Asia, ⁷ After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. ⁸ And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

- Here is an example where the Holy Spirit forbade men to go certain places.
- The Bible says of itself that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”
- Since all scripture is given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit would never contradict Himself in leading someone contrary to the Bible.

5. DOES IT PLEASE GOD?

1 John 3:22

²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

- When there is no commandment to obey, then the question is, “Does it please God?”
- The Christian should never do anything unless he is thoroughly convinced that it will please the Lord.

6. CAN I DO IT IN JESUS NAME?

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- Notice carefully the words, “whatsoever ye do in word or deed.” That covers every word the believer will ever utter and anything the believer will ever do. And according to the verse we are to do it “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- When the believer is faced with a matter and can’t decide whether it is right or wrong, he should simply ask, “Can I do it in the name of the Lord Jesus?” If not, then we should not.

7. CAN I GIVE GOD THANKS FOR IT?

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- Whatever the matter in question is, can you honestly thank God for it?
- If you cannot sincerely give thanks to God for the matter in question, then it is best not to do it.

8. DOES IT BRING GLORY TO GOD?

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- Does the thing that you have a question about bring honor to God? Does it glorify God? Does it give God a good name? If not, then it is wrong.

Psalms 23:3

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- We are Christians. We bear His name. Our lifestyle, language, attitudes, and manner of dress reflect His name. "He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- Unless you are honestly convinced that the thing in question will bring glory to God, then don't do it.

9. DOES IT OFFEND OTHER CHRISTIANS?

1 Corinthians 8:9-13

⁹ But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. ¹⁰ For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; ¹¹ And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. ¹³ Wherefore, if meat make my brother to

offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Romans 14:13

¹³ Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

- It is clear from this passage that some weaker Christians thought eating meats was wrong, though we read in 1 Timothy 4:3-5 that really eating meat is not wrong.

1 Timothy 4:3-5

³ Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

10. AM I FULLY PERSUADED THAT IT IS RIGHT?

Romans 14:5

⁵ One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- The word persuaded in this verse simply means convinced. In other words, if you are not thoroughly convinced that the thing in question is right, then it is best not to do it.

Romans 14:23

²³ And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not

of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- The word prevail means to rule or to govern. In other words we must have faith that God will give us peace about the matter, and without it, don't do it.
- When a believer is faced with a decision regarding a questionable matter, he should never precede unless he has complete peace about it. If there is nothing wrong with it, then God is able to give complete peace.
- Never proceed until you are fully persuaded it is all right to proceed.

I have many times to individuals, “Never make a decision while at “In-Decision.”

Remember if there is something that you may have a question about proceed with caution, there's a reason for the question.