

*"To Live Below With The Saints We Know"*  
Romans 14:1-12

**The Context of Romans 12-15**

1. A call to consecrate ourselves unto God. Rom 12:1,2
2. Applications: Ourselves, Rom 12:3-8. Others, 12:9-16. Enemies, 12:17-21. State, 13:1-7
3. Principle: Love & Law. Rom 13:8-14
4. Principle: Love & Freedom. Rom 14:1-15:13
  - ◆ How we are to *think* towards Christians with whom we disagree. 14:1-12
  - ◆ How we are to *act* towards Christians with whom we disagree. 14:13-15:4

**The Introductory Principle: Accept Other Christians! Rom 14:1**

1. The Issue: Matters of opinion.
  - ◆ Gk. διαλογισμός: *Opinion, disputable matters, doubtful disputations*. Debatable matters.
  - ◆ Paul's examples: dietary codes (14:2), religious days (14:5)
  - ◆ Today's examples: drinking, smoking, dancing, theatre, hair-style, cosmetics, Christmas, dress-codes, school-options, denominational affiliation, political differences, worship styles, personality differences, variations in personal piety, treatment of a divorcee, treatment of repentant sinners, ad infinitum, ad nauseam.
  - ◆ These are *not* matters of actual commandment (addressed by Paul in Rom 13:8-14)
2. The command: Accept your brother with whom you disagree!
  - ◆ Pos: *Accept* (A strong term!)...as God has *accepted* him (14:3)...as Christ has us (15:7)!
  - ◆ Neg: Do so *without debate* (judgment) over his scruples. I.E. Accept him completely!

**Accept Your Brother (with whom you differ) Because God Has Accepted Him. Rom 14:2-3**

1. Example of eating -- vegetarianism. One feels free to eat meat, another does not.
  - ◆ The meat-eater (*strong* because he understands Scripture) shouldn't be condescending!
  - ◆ The vegetarian (*weak* because he misunderstands Scripture) shouldn't be judgmental!
2. God has accepted *both*!
  - ◆ God accepts not on the basis of works!
  - ◆ God accepts on the basis of grace!
3. Application: Have the same attitude toward your brother (grace & not works)!

**Accept Your Brother Because He Is Christ's Servant, Not Yours! Rom 14:4-6**

1. No Christian is responsible to you -- Each Christian answers to Christ
  - ◆ Each Christian is Christ's servant, not yours
  - ◆ Example of day-keeping: What they do (or not do) they do for *Him*.
  - ◆ It is possible to serve the Lord different ways!
2. Every Christian has Christ working in him! He will enable ea. to serve now & stand in judgment
3. Each Christian must seek to *be convinced by Scripture* what is right. Cf. Rom 12:1,2
4. Application: Mind your own business!

**Accept Your Brother Because Christ Died & Rose To Be His Lord. Rom 14:7-9**

1. Your & your brother's life are totally Christ's -- hook, line, & sinker
  - ◆ You & your brother live for the Lord (by virtue of your salvation)
  - ◆ You & your brother will die for the Lord (in His providence)
2. It was for this purpose that Christ died & rose: To save a people for Himself.
3. Application: See things in the BIG picture. Stop sweating the small stuff!

**Accept Your Brother Because Christ Will Perfectly Judge Each One Of Us. Rom 14:10-12**

1. Every Christian will stand before Christ's Bema seat (I Cor 3:11-15; 9:25-27; II Cor 5:10; Phil 3:12-14; II Tim 4:7-8)
  - ◆ Isa 45:23. Every knee, Every tongue = every person, for everything
  - ◆ Each of us Christians will give *an account* for everything!
2. Application: Christ will bring all things to account, so quit dumping on one another!