

Romans 14:5-6

Regarding Holy Days

1. Regarding the Context

- a. Yes, it is about liberty (14:3-4), but Gentiles are not the ones esteeming days.
- b. Yes, it is about 'his own mind', but persuasion comes from scripture not preference.
- c. Yes, it is about receiving each other, but it divides between weak and strong in the faith.
- d. Yes, both have conscience (knowledge) to worship God: one by law, the other by grace.
- e. Rom 14 instructs the weak in 'liberty' and the strong in 'charity'.

2. Esteeming a Day

- a. Not vacation, family days, cultural, memorials, events, special occasions, scheduling days.
- b. 'esteeming' 'regarding' refer to giving a day sacred value, holiness, i.e holy calendars.
- c. Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants all esteem / observe holy days of obligation
- d. Sanctifying a day is to make it holy, consecration of a day / time / month – sun, moon, etc.
- e. "*the day*" is not Christmas, Valentines, Halloween, Lent, but a Biblical day - Col 2:16
- f. No Biblical holy day matches any national or culturally Christian holiday today.

3. Holy Days Under the Law

- a. Israel had 7 annual holy days defined in Levitus 23 – but some can't be kept w/o temple.
- b. 4th commandment- Exo 20:8-10 – Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- c. *What made it holy?* God did. He set it apart. He declared it. *How to keep it holy?*
 - i. No work -God mandated rest, forced celebration, required joy De 5:12-15, 15:22-26
 - ii. It was a law, for the children of Israel - Exo 31:12-13
 - iii. It had penalties for failing to keep it - Exo 31:14-17
 - iv. It was "to the Lord" – observed the way he said to, not the 3rd, 5th or 1st day.
- d. Jesus kept these days also, and they will be important in their kingdom come - Isa 66:21-23

4. Grace Teaching on Days

- a. There were Sabbath controversies in early "church" history: Paul died before it was over.
- b. Paul taught we are dead to law, not under law, a more excellent way, complete in Christ.
- c. The supper in 1Co 11:26 is closest to holy day, but it is not on a calendar, and is a doctrine.
- d. Under grace, days not set apart, people in the BoC are - Phi 2:3, 1Th 4:3, 5:13, 1Tim 4:4-6
- e. Under grace, Christ our sanctification, glory not in days, but the cross - 1Cor 1:30, Gal 6:14
- f. The one keeping the law, observing the days are "weak" in grace/Christ - Gal 4:9-11
- g. Under grace, you are not judged by holy days, or doctrines of men – Col 2:14, 16, 19-23
- h. Grace frees us from God's holy calendar and times (acc. to law and prophecy), why?
- i. We live in a mystery dispensation Christ revealed in due time - 1 Tim 2:6, Ti 1:3

5. 14:6-7 – Regard it to the Lord

- a. The wrong read: If you keep a day to the Lord, it is acceptable no matter the day or how.
- b. The right read: If you are keeping a day to the Lord, it is because the Lord said to.

- c. This concerns right worship to the Lord, not personal preference, invented holy days.
- d. The Lord nowhere instructs us to regard Christmas, Easter, Valentines, All Saints Day.
- e. The Lord did instruct Israel perpetually to regard Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Jubilees.
- f. This is Jew and Gentile, both trying to live to the Lord (not himself), by obeying the Lord.
- g. *What's your instruction?* Be fully persuaded (by God's words) in your own mind.

6. Charity to the Weaker Brother

- a. The weakness is not carnality, vanity, worldliness, but in understanding what grace teaches
- b. Under law, sin was the weakness; under grace, law is weak (as well as sin).
- c. This can be hard to understand for those steeped in law and prophecy.
- d. To weak: there is liberty not to esteem days, to eat all things to the Lord under grace.
- e. To strong: you don't have the right to justify anything you want b/c liberty - 1Co 10:23
- f. To Americans: declaring invented days as holy does not make it right to the Lord, especially if it attracts the world and distracts from proclaiming the truth of God's grace.
- g. Be strong in God's grace in Christ. Regard what the Lord regards. Phi 2:3-4, 20-21.