

Romans: Paul's Symphony

Romans 14:1-9 *The Weak and the Strong*

April 25, 2021

What, if any, rules did your family have for what you could or could not do on Sunday?

What did you, or do you, refuse to eat or drink?

Read 14:1-4. Most meat on sale in Roman markets had earlier been offered as sacrifice at pagan temples. Why would that make food such a divisive issue for Jews and Christians in Rome? What else caused conflict over food in the early church? What does Paul say about this in 1 Corinthians 10:23-31 and 1 Timothy 4:1-5?

Read 14:5-9. What other issue was dividing Christians in Rome? What disputable matters divide the church today?

When it comes to “gray areas,” how do you react to those with strict convictions? Those with more lenient convictions? How can you stay true to your convictions without judging others?

What does it mean to you that none of us live or die to ourselves alone (v. 7)?

Verses 7-9 are often read at funerals. How might those words bring comfort to those who are grieving? How do they connect to Jesus' words to the Sadducees (who did not believe in resurrection) in Matthew 22:31-32?

Next week: **Why Do You Judge?**—read Romans 14:10-23