

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 29 - The Weak and the Strong - [Romans 14:1-23](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Do Not Judge Your Brother

14 Welcome the one who is weak in faith; but not for the purpose of arguing with him about what he allows or refuses.

² One person believes he may eat everything, but the one who is weak in knowledge and doesn't understand the facts eats only vegetables.

³ The one who eats everything must not despise the one who doesn't. And the one who doesn't eat meat must not judge the one who does, because God has accepted him.

⁴ Who do you think you are, judging someone else's servant? It's his Master's responsibility to tell him if he's doing right or wrong. And he will be made to do what pleases the Lord, because God is able to help him do it.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than other days. A second person considers every day to be of equal importance. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

⁶ The one who considers a certain day as sacred, honors that day for the Lord. And the one who does not consider that day as special, considers that day no more sacred to the Lord than any other day. The one who eats anything, eats to please the Lord, and gives God thanks. And the one who refuses to eat certain food, abstains for the purpose of pleasing the Lord, and he gives God thanks.

⁷ Because no true follower of the Lord lives to please himself, and none of us even dies to certain things for our own advantage.

⁸ So whether we live or die to these things, we do so for the Lord. In either case, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ That's why Christ both died and rose to live again. It was so that He might be our Lord and Ruler in all circumstances, both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ Why, then, do you continue to judge your brother? And you, the other one, why do you continue to look down on your brother? After all, we will all stand before Christ at His judgment seat and be judged by Him.

¹¹ For the Scripture declares:

“As surely as I live, the Lord says, every knee will bow before me, ‘and every tongue will confess to God.’” (*Isa. 45:23*)

12 So then, each of us must give an account to God about what we have done.

Do Not Cause Others to Sin

13 So we shouldn't be judging each other anymore. But we should also make up our minds never to do anything that may cause a fellow follower to stumble and fall into sin.

14 As for myself, I'm fully convinced by all that the Lord Jesus has taught me, that nothing in the way of food, in itself, is wrong to eat. But if a person believes that something is wrong, then for him it is wrong.

15 If you put pressure on someone by the food you eat, your actions are no longer motivated by love. Christ died for this brother. Don't tempt and destroy him with the food you eat!

16 So don't do what you believe is good, in such a way that people will speak against you for it.

17 Because what you eat and drink is not the important thing in the Kingdom of God. What is important is all that's implied by the words righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 When you serve Christ in this way you truly please God, and you will also be well regarded by others.

19 So let's keep emphasizing the things that result in peace, and the things that enable us to build each other up in the faith.

20 Don't destroy the work of God in a person's life simply for the sake of exercising your freedom to eat certain food! Even if all food is acceptable, it is sinful for you to eat that food if by eating it you cause a fellow believer to fall into sin.

21 It is best that you don't eat certain meat, or drink wine, or do anything else that may cause a follower of the Lord to be offended, or weakened, *and even fall*.

22 Do you have confidence in what you are doing? Have it between yourself and God. Happy is the one who does not continue to doubt what he has carefully looked into and is honestly convinced is proper action.

23 But if you doubt the rightness of eating certain food, you are condemned if you eat it, because you are not eating it with the assurance that it is right and proper to do so. Whatever is not done in confident assurance is sin!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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339. How should a fellow believer who is weak in the faith be treated? ([14:1](#))
340. What reasons did Paul give for not judging people on disputable matters? ([14:1-12](#))
341. What issues did Paul believe were not worth fighting over? ([13:2](#), [5](#))
342. What should be the primary motivation for a person's decision to eat meat or celebrate a sacred day? ([13:6-8](#))
343. What will each person do when standing before God's judgment seat? ([14:12](#))
344. What should we do instead of judging fellow Christians? ([14:13](#))
345. What was Paul's personal belief about unclean foods? ([14:14](#))
346. What consideration should a Christian give to the opinions of fellow believers on controversial matters? ([14:14-15](#))
347. When should a Christian defer to another Christian's beliefs? ([14:15-16](#))
348. What is the true focus of the kingdom of God? ([14:17-18](#))
349. What is a Christian's responsibility for building peace among the other believers? ([14:19-21](#))
350. How should concern for other believers affect our personal choices? ([14:21](#))