

Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study

Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#

Zoom Meeting ID 863 1188 9288, Passcode 782781

Facebook™ Live @unionbethelameccary

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Romans 14:1-23



Romans 14:1-4

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. **2** Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. **4** Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Christians are not all the same. There are key concepts that are the same, but everyday living habits may be different. Even if we object, God will prevent failure for those who live differently.

Why is nonconforming to group principles acceptable?

Romans 14:5-6

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

Whether we eat certain foods or abstain, it is not about the food. When what we do glorifies God, then we live as God desires. God does ask us to fast but not to live in a perpetual fast. It is how we hear the Holy Spirit that determines our habits and patterns of life.

What does it mean to be fully convinced in our own minds?

Romans 14:7-12

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

We have so much freedom with Christ Jesus. Some may think that to be Christ-like is somehow stifling. That is not true. Christ Jesus is with us in all of our circumstances. We are free to choose. We must realize that no matter what we do, we are accountable to God.

How should we live with the freedom we have?

Romans 14:13-23

13 Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. **14** I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. **15** If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. **16** So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. **17** For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. **19** Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **20** Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; **21** it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. **22** The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. **23** But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Our judgments on each other can be a stumbling block especially for those young in Christ. If we need to provide instruction, then let it be by example. The example may require that we change a habit that is not an issue for us but is painful for someone else. Paul calls for us to make a sacrifice if something that we do leads to confusion. Whatever we do, we must have faith that God is pleased and we are not hurting ourselves. This is true faith and trust in God, and not wishing that God approves of something we know is wrong.

Why do we need to be mindful of our actions?

How can doing what we think is right actually be sin?
