

[**MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!**

Romans 14:1-13a

Ultimate put down-- **"Mind your own business!"**

Adult version: "What business is that of yours?!"

Jn. 21:22 "... *what is that to you?*"

Implication of Gospel: **Because we're in Christ, we're FREE!**

What does that allow a child of God to do?

We all have *our* idea of what Christians should or shouldn't do!

Problem: we don't all have *SAME* idea

How *should* we evaluate what to do?

Mixed church—**Jewish/pagan**—numerous issues debated
—primarily related to O.T.

Main debate: MEAT THEY CAN EAT?

Many know O.T. lists unclean meats we're not to eat.

Some didn't eat meat at all. They were vegetarians.

They missed God's declaration: He made all meat clean

Some struggle over celebration of religious holidays.

We call such issues "doubtful things;"

—matters **God's Word** hasn't *clearly* defined.

***Doesn't* incl. things God spoke clearly about!**

Godly response to gospel:

If God says we *should* do something, *we do it!*

If God says *don't* do something, *we don't do it!*

Such things aren't "*doubtful*".

God's Word is final authority—We do what God says!

What do we do when God *doesn't* speak clearly?

Some issues Bible never mentions.

Sometimes gives *principles* to apply to new situation

Sometimes there's **NO** indication of what God wants.

Sometimes Bible leaves US free to decide

What about when we don't agree what to do?

Hardest case: *we don't agree what Bible teaches concerning issue doubtful* for you, but *isn't* doubtful for me!

Many issues aren't that clear cut:

* Drinking beer or cut hair? * Mixed bathing or smoking?

"EASY" as long as we focus on eating meat—not *OUR* issue!

When I get close to our issues, temperature starts to rise!

Our idea of right or wrong is often NOT based on Scripture
—often based on our background & experience!

Choose one that causes you a great deal of struggle,

...to decide what you should do, or accept someone else.

1st principle: **STOP JUDGING ONE ANOTHER!** 1-3 "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. ²One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, & the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him."

Accept one another, because God accepts us.

Paul's discussion revolves around people "weak in faith"

People strong in faith, believe they're free to do it!

The "weak" don't believe they should do it!

Legalists, who don't do certain things, *think they're strong*

We think WE're strong;

People who disagree with us are *weak*

Neutral concerning issue itself; issue isn't the problem!

Paul wants *both* groups to hear what he has to say.

Weak people should be welcomed as one with us

We don't accept people to get them to change their mind!

We *welcome* him *as he is*, accepting different views

DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE WHO DIFFER WITH US.

Distinction NOT between people who *believe* & who *don't*

Difference between person who ***has faith to eat anything***

& weak who ***avoids*** meat

Strong believes God eliminated distinction between foods;

we can enjoy everything God created.

Weak, living in pagan land, refuses to defile self with food

Consider how ea. deals with other when they discuss issue

People who enjoy liberty to do something,

look down on people without freedom.

Considers convictions foolish! "*Little meat won't hurt you!*"

People who can't—judge/condemn those who do.

—attack them for "carnality" or "worldliness"

"People who don't follow our rules can't be spiritual!"

Paul speaks to both: "*Mind your own business!*"

To strong: Stop looking down on people who can't!

It's as wrong to look down on people who don't enjoy liberty
–who don't understand it's OK–as to judge those who do it!

To weak: Stop condemning people who do!

It's as wrong to try to make *your* laws *everybody's* laws,
& judge those who do what you can't do!

BOTH: STOP JUDGING OTHER PEOPLE!

Participating or not isn't essential for fellowship with God.
If God accepts people who disagree, who are we to argue?

GOD HAS ACCEPTED BOTH;

Don't judge people who make different choices!

To avoid tendency to judge we...

RECOGNIZE CHRIST'S LORDSHIP 14:4-9

Fundamental principle of all servanthood:

4 *"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master, he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand."*

Servant answers to his own Master

Don't judge someone else's servant!

We have no right to tell another's servants what to do.

Our Master not only evaluates what we do,

He enables us; makes us stand on firm ground!

Fundamental principle of our servanthood: **5-8** *"1 man considers 1 day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each 1 should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who regards 1 day as special, does so to the Lord.*

He who eats meat eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; & he who abstains does so to the Lord & gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives for himself alone, & none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord; & if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

We live to please OUR Master

We're God's servants—our role: to please Him!

It's not our place to keep an eye on everybody else!

Paul *assumes* both seek to please our Master.

Deal with controversy based on conviction;

Paul doesn't care whether we eat or not

IF we decide based on what God wants US to do.

7 X in 3 vs: ***we're the Lord's***; do what we do for Him,

If we celebrate religious days, we do it for Him.

If we don't celebrate, that's also for Him.

If we eat everything in sight, we *do it for Him*.

If we don't eat certain foods, it's also for Him

Whatever we do should be for Him, not people.

God's servants live for God; not to satisfy our desires.

Whichever we choose—do it for God's glory—not our own!

Right of our Master 9 *"For this very reason, Christ died & returned to life, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead & the living."*

Christ died & rose again;

therefore, He alone has right to rule!

ONLY CHRIST HAS RIGHT TO JUDGE

Key question 14:10-13a 10a “You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother?”

Why are WE criticizing our brother?

God never delegated this authority to us!

Basic fact of life 10b-12 “We will all stand before God’s judgment seat. ¹¹It’s written, “As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow **before me**; every tongue will confess to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

We all give account to God for our decisions!

We have enough to keep busy, worrying about our lives

Each of us will confess unworthiness before Him

So why are we worried about what they’re doing?!!!

Conclusion 13a “Stop passing judgment on 1 another

STOP JUDGING OTHERS!

Each person must give account of himself

therefore, don’t judge other people!

Has God's mercy been great towards us?

If it has, we ought to have humility before others.

Are we criticizing others for what they do, or don’t do?

Do we look down on people who don't enjoy liberty we do?

Do we try to force our standards on other people?

Proper response to gospel will cause us

to welcome people who make different choices!