**ROMANS 14**

**“WALKING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE”**

**(C. Smith)**

Romans 14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful ***(Arguable & petty)*** things.

* It is sad how divided the Church has become over minor little differences. When you talk to somebody and they give you their church membership history it is at times baffling how many churches they have attended in the last 10 years.
* It is like the poor guy that was stranded on a desert island and after 10 years was rescued…. That’s the church that I USED to go to…

**WALK IN LOVE NOT WITH LISTS…**

2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables.

* SO… We all know people who do not eat meat. SOME refuse to eat meat for health reasons – They have studied how our meat is prepared in USA and are grossed out by it. SOME refuse to eat meat for religious reasons, and SOME refuse it for political reasons.
* You will NOT change anyone’s mind on the matter with arguments. NONE!
* When we entertain our vegetarian friends, Lynette calls ahead to accommodate them. THAT is love!

3 Let **not** him who eats despise ***(Dismiss)*** him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge ***(Condemn)*** him who eats; for God has received him.

* It could sound like this: IF… you were really a Christian, then you would not: DANCE… ROCK OUT… TASTE… ATTEND… WATCH… LISTEN TO… VOTE FOR… SUPPORT… or WORSHIP WITH HILLSONG MUSIC… 😊
* Be careful Beloved… Don’t anger God by condemning His Children. Listen to this warning….

**THE DANGER OF CONDEMNING ONE ANOTHER**

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. ***(IE, Stand before a Judge exonerated)***

* You do NOT want to be the prosecutor or accuser of one of God’s Kids when this happens… God has prepared a hotter than usual hell for these false accusers. **REV 20:10**

**HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

5 One person esteems *one* day ***(Saturday)*** above another; ***(Sunday)*** another esteems every day *alike.* ***(CCSV – We start EVERYDAY with the LORD)*** Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

**PERSONAL CONVICTIONS**

6 He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it.* He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and **gives God thanks.**

* IF you are a vegetarian – THANK GOD that you do not have to swallow dead cow… “Thank You God for sparing me…”
* If you are a carnivore… You better thank God for the Ribeye that is going on your Traeger Barbeque this afternoon…
* THE MOST important thing in V6… To be thankful for one another.

**HOW WE SHOULD THEN LIVE…**

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ***(Or FOR himself)*** 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ***Listen…***

* **1 COR 11:28** – “But let a man examine himself…”
* **Before I become judgmental of anybody else**… I first need to deal with MY heart… My behavior… and MY walk before the LORD.
	+ **After that adventure I probably won’t have any energy left to judge you.**
	+ Why in the world do we feel contempt for our brothers and sisters in Christ when we shall **ALL** stand before the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ…

**FOR THE LIFE OF ME…**

11 For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." ***ISAIAH 45:23***

* MY knee and MY tongue will submit to the LORD right along with the knees and the tongues of the people that I condemned… How much better if I do not condemn them now!

**SELF REVIEW**

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

**DO NOT CAUSE ANOTHER TO STUMBLE**

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. **CEV - We must stop judging others. We must also make up our minds not to upset anyone's faith.**

* If I know that an activity I enjoy is going to make you stumble in your faith… I would rather skip it than hurt you… Every day of the week!
* NO JUDGMENT either!

**BE CONSIDERATE!**

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; ***(Meats)*** but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* un-clean. 15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

* **EXAMPLE**: Lynette and I grew up in a denomination that taught that dancing was sinful… **REALLY!** We had to go and take dance lessons after we got over it, BUT… Our denomination had Halloween parties every year!
	+ We never knew how evil some people considered Halloween until we got to Calvary Chapel. So… Now… We have “Harvest Festival Dances 😊”

**THE KEY…**

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.

* **LET ME TAKE A POLL** – How many of you have not heard a word I have said since I said the word: Halloween?
* Stop pursuing that thought and pursue LOVE! 😊

**HARMONY IN GOD’S CHURCH**

19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may **edify another**. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense.

21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor *do anything* by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

* BE CAREFUL in your liberty! Let love rule & reign!

22 Do you have faith? Have *it* to yourself before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves**. NLT - Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right.**

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does* not *eat* from faith; **for whatever *is* not from faith is sin**.