

5.

Romans 14:1-12

Be Considerate

What are the things which cause a church to split? Rarely is it a matter of foundational doctrine. (This is one of the benefits of denominationalism where people can broadly associate with like-minded fellow believers.) More often than not it is over *opinions*. In fact, it's not just churches where opinions divide people. Relationship counsellors tell us that the sharing of opinions is where the 'first wall of conflict' occurs in a friendship, a marriage, or a family.

1. Is Romans 14:1 primarily addressed to new Christians or mature Christians?

2. How might Romans 14:1 be a 'key' to a church's growth?

3. According to Romans 14:2-3, does the New Testament promote vegetarianism? Discuss.

4. How would you respond to a fellow believer who cited Romans 14:4 and verse 10 to you after you challenged them about their openly fornicating lifestyle?

5. Imagine your church experienced rapid and dramatic growth. Fortunately, your church owns a modest sized building - but, it soon becomes unable to accommodate the number of church attenders. There is no scope to extend the facilities. The church's leadership decides to start multiple services, but despite adding a further 6 services to the Sunday schedule, the church still cannot accommodate all those who are now attending. A decision is made by

the church's leadership to commence a Saturday night service, but one very passionate objector claims that Romans 14:5 forbids this. How might the church's leadership respond to this?

While many people view Christianity as a merely religious preference or even identity, the apostle Paul taught that a believer's commitment to Christ impacted how they treated food, their leisure, *and* their religious devotion.

6. In what way does Romans 14:6 mean that sincere believers will have to learn how to disagree?
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7. Reading Romans 14:7-8, Paul seems to be saying that believers should live in a way to give God glory. But he also seems to have said that believers should *die* in a way that glorified God. In what way can a follower of Christ give God glory in the way they die?
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8. In what way then did Christ glorify God in the way He died? How does this tell us how we can glorify God in our deaths (Note Romans 14:9)
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No Judge And Jury Needed

9. What reasons does Paul give for *not* being condemning of another believer in Romans 14:10-12?
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10. If the principles in Romans 14:1-12 were embraced within a local church how would this influence its culture?
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Amen.