

6.

Romans 14:13-23

Be Sensitive Towards Others

How well do you get along with people who disagree with you? How patient are you with those in your church who are new Christians - yet still have ideas which differ with Biblical standards? The apostle Paul has challenging things to say about these issues in this section of Romans.

1. What kinds of things can happen within a church community that can be the kind of *stumbling block* or *hindrance* mentioned in Romans 14:13 that could cause a new Christian to stumble?

2. Read Romans 14:14. In what way should a believer be *confident* about what they believe?

3. When Paul labeled something as *unclean* in Romans 14:14, how does Leviticus 18:30 help us to understand what *unclean* meant to him and his original audience?

4. In what way does Romans 14:15 challenge the believer who says, "I don't care what other people think! I'm doing it anyway!"

5. Considering Romans 14:15, what are some of the things that believers can strongly disagree about and potentially lead to some weak believers walking away from faith in Christ?
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There are several precious things which believers in Christ regard as *good* - yet those who deny Christ denounce as 'evil'. These would include: the Bible, our church, marriage, family, and the unborn.

6. How does Paul say that believers should respond to those who denounce these precious things as 'evil' based on Romans 14:16?
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Christians can differ over what they consider it is appropriate to eat or drink. Paul seems to consider these differences rather petty. The kingdom of God, he tells the Romans, is not a matter of eating and drinking - even though these things might bring delight and enjoyment. Rather, the kingdom of God is about things far more substantial than these *petty* delights.

7. According to Romans 14:17, what *are* the delights of the kingdom of God which the believer should enjoy most?
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The believer who enjoys these kingdom benefits is *acceptable to* ___ *and approved by* ___ (Rom. 14:18).

8. Why is Romans 14:19 a 'church growth principle'?
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9. Does Romans 14:20-23 broaden or narrow the definition of 'sin'? Discuss.
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Amen.