

Session #52: “THE LAW OF LIBERTY - WHEN DO WE JUDGE?”—

Romans 14:1-9

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map” Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- Who is one who is “weak in the faith”?
- How would you define the difference between legalism and liberty in Christ?
- As a Christian, how do you keep from becoming legalistic?
- Does the Bible ever teach that it’s okay to flaunt your liberty in Christ?
- Do today’s verses teach that you are more spiritual or more commended to God if you eat only vegetables?
- When, under what circumstances, does the Bible say **we are to judge others**? (6 examples)
- When does the Bible say **we are not to judge others**? (6 examples)

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

THE PROBLEMS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 9:1-11:36

THE PRACTICES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 12:1-15:33

1A. AS TO LIVING FOR THE LORD - 12:1-8

2A. AS TO THE LOVE OF THE LORD - 12:9-21 Let love be without hypocrisy!

3A. AS TO THE LAW OF GOD - 13:1-14

• **4A. AS TO LIBERTY IN CHRIST - 14:1-23**

1B. It **EXCLUDES judgment of others - 14:1-12**

2B. It **EXERCISES** love to others - 14:13-21

3B. It **EXPERIENCES** discernment for yourself - 14:22-23

• **1B. It generally EXCLUDES judgment (passing sentence) of others - 14:1-12**

Consider the Greek words used in the NT for “*judge, judgment*” or “*judging*”

(1) *Krino* - **to decide, conclude, determine, pass sentence** - used over 160 times cf. Mt. 7:1

(2) *Anakrino* - **to ask questions, examine, evaluate, discern** - used 17 times (once as a noun) - cf. 1 Cor. 2:14-15

(3) *Diakrino* - **to discern, to make a distinction, to see through the judgment** - used 22 times - cf. Rom. 14:23

*Rom 14:1 Receive one who is **weak in the faith**,*

NOTE: **Who is the one “weak in the faith”?**

(1) It **does not say “weak in faith”**

(2) It **does not say “weak in morals**

(3) It says **“weak in the faith” - those doctrines of our salvation and freedom in Jesus Christ**

(4) It says **they have a “weak conscience” - 1 Cor. 8:1-13**

(5) It says **they have the following characteristics:**

*Rom. 14:2 - “eats only vegetables” - NIV & NASB says that he “*eats vegetables*”*

*Rom. 14:15 - “grieved” - NIV - “*distressed*”*

Rom. 14:21 - “stumbles” and “offended”

Rom. 14:23 - “doubts”

Rom. 15:1 - “scruples of the weak”

• 1C. **When is it Right to judge?**

✓ 1D. **We are to judge (anakrino) all things - 1 Cor. 2:15**

✓ 2D. **We are to judge the spirits (anakrino) - 1 John 4:1**

✓ 3D. **We are to judge (diakrino) between fellow believers who have a dispute - 1 Cor. 6:5**

- ✓ 4D. We are to judge those living in sin who refuse to repent - (*krino*) - 1 Cor. 5:12-13 (still in sin, still in rebellion, refusing to repent)
- ✓ 5D. We are to judge with righteous judgment (*krino*) - John 7:24 - never based on appearance - (Ref. Jesus' Sabbath healing of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda)
- ✓ 6D. We are to judge ourselves (*diakrino*) - 1 Cor. 11:31

• 2C. When is it Wrong to judge?

Rom 14:1 Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but **not to disputes over doubtful things**.

Rom 14:2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak **eats only vegetables**.

Rom 14:3 Let not him who eats **despise** him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat **judge him who eats**; for God has received him.

- ✓ 1D. When our disagreements with other believers are over “doubtful things” - non essentials- (**no proof of sin**) – 1 - Greek: *diakriseis dialogismon* - dialogue or argument about what is right or wrong **about that which Bible does not call “sin.”** **This is always wrong!**
- ✓ 2D. When we think we are better than others or our position is the only correct one to consider - “despise” Greek: *exoutheneito* - cf. Matt. 7:1-5 - (we usually do not see our own faults) **This is so easy to do!!**

Rom 14:4 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.

- ✓ 3D. When we try to play God – 4 - cf. James 4:11-12(krino) **We have no business doing this!**

Rom 14:5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. **Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.**

- ✓ 4D. When we don't respect the opinions and convictions of others – 5 - Issue is “days” - cf. Galatians 4:10-11 and Colossians 2:16-17(krino) **How often do you find yourself arguing with others who have different opinions and convictions of other?**

Rom 14:6 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.

- ✓ 5D. When we question the motives of others - 6 - cf. 1 Cor. 4:3-5 (anakrino) **Don't question the motives of others!**

Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

Rom 14:8 **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.

Rom 14:9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, **that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.**

- ✓ 6D. When we doubt a person's relationship to the Lord - 7-9

SUMMARY: 1 Cor. 2:10-16

ARE YOU ONE WHO JUDGES ANOTHER AND LETS GOD LOVE THEM. OR? ARE YOU ONE WHO LOVES THEM AND LETS GOD JUDGE THEM?

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God.

A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.

Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God, Hold us who wait before Thee Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God.

A place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God. - Refrain: