

## Romans

Bible Class 12  
The Transformed Life Part 2  
Romans 14:1-15:13

## The Transformed Life Part 1

1. Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice Rom 12:1
2. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind Rom 12:2
3. One body in Christ, and individually members one of another Rom 12:3-13
4. Be at peace with all men Rom 12:14-21

2

## The Transformed Life Part 1

5. Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities Rom 13:1-7
6. Love your neighbor as yourself Rom 13:8-10
7. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ Rom 13:11-14

3

## Introduction

- This section of Romans, especially Romans 14, might be the most challenging to understand and apply
- Many, including some brethren, believe Romans 14 teaches that we can differ in doctrine and morality and still be in fellowship with one another
- But, we are not to have fellowship with those who believe, teach, practice and defend error and immorality

4

## Introduction

- Romans 14 is focused on potential conflicts between Christians who differ over matters of individual Christian liberty
- These are a range of choices we can make as Christians to either do or not do something and still be acceptable to God
- Therefore, these are opinions or preferences that we can differ on and still be pleasing to God, our choices being indifferent to God

5

## Introduction

- Again, the danger of understanding Romans 14 to include matters of doctrine and morality would mean we must accept, be in fellowship with, false teachers and those in immoral behavior
- Our unity then would be based on tolerating and fellowshiping (partnering with) error and immorality
- But, unity must be based on believing, teaching, practicing and defending truth

6

## The Transformed Life Part 2

1. What does faith mean in Romans 14?
2. Those strong and weak in faith Rom 14:1-6, 21
3. Do not judge one another Rom 14:7-12
4. Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way Rom 14:13-20

7

## The Transformed Life Part 2

5. Exercise Christian liberties privately and in good conscience before God Rom 14:21-23
6. Accept one another Rom 14:1, 15:1-13

8

### What does faith mean in Romans 14?

- From the context, faith in Romans 14 refers to strongly held opinions relating to matters that are not in conflict with the teaching of Christ
- To be pleasing to God, we must exercise our individual Christian liberties with a clear conscience, having no doubts that what we are doing or not doing is right in God's sight

9

### What does faith mean in Romans 14?

- In other words, faith is used in Romans 14 to describe individual Christian liberties that do not involve violating Christ's teaching
- On these differing choices, in Romans 14, no local church actions, essential doctrines and moral behaviors are being considered

10

### What does faith mean in Romans 14?

- This is why Christians can exercise their liberties differently and still be in fellowship with God and one another
- However, the ways we are to behave toward one another, regardless of our choices in individual Christian liberties, are essential and binding by the Lord's authority

11

### What does faith mean in Romans 14?

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.  
Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.  
Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

12

## What does faith mean in Romans 14?

Rom 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

13

## What does faith mean in Romans 14?

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

14

## What does faith mean in Romans 14?

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating* is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

15

## Those strong and weak in faith

- The strong brother in Romans 14 is the one who has a fuller knowledge of God's Word allowing him to act with a clear conscience in Christian liberties without restrictions
- The weak brother in Romans 14 is the one who has a lesser knowledge of God's Word leading him to restrict his Christian liberties because he believes certain things would be wrong for him to do although God allows them

16

## Those strong and weak in faith

- Both strong and weak believe they are right and in fact they both are right while holding different opinions regarding their Christian liberties
- But, in order to remain right in their liberties, both strong and weak must behave toward one another in the ways prescribed by the gospel in Romans 14:1-15:13

17

## Those strong and weak in faith

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

18

## Those strong and weak in faith

Rom 14:3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

19

## Those strong and weak in faith

Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

Rom 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

20

## Those strong and weak in faith

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

21

## Do not judge one another

- Both strong and weak brethren are warned not to judge each other for their differing opinions
- God accepts and will judge both the strong and the weak in faith
- However when it comes to matters that involve doctrinal error or immorality, we are to judge as God commands us

22

## Do not judge one another

- We must not believe, teach, practice, defend or be in fellowship with doctrinal error or immorality
- If false doctrines and immoral actions are to be placed in Romans 14, then we cannot oppose any false doctrines and immoral actions

23

## Do not judge one another

- Again, Romans 14 is about matters that are indifferent to God but may be important to Christians and may result in conflict between them unless they behave in the ways God prescribes
- Further, they are warned not to hold each other with contempt

24

## Do not judge one another

Rom 14:7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

Rom 14:8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

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

25

## Do not judge one another

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Rom 14:11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

Rom 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

26

## We are to righteously judge those in doctrinal error and immorality

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Joh 7:19-24  | 10. 1Co 5:1-6, 11 |
| 2. Mat 7:1-5    | 11. Jud 1:3-4     |
| 3. Joh 17:20-21 | 12. Rom 16:17-18  |
| 4. Act 2:42     | 13. 1Ti 6:3-5     |
| 5. 2Th 2:10-12  | 14. Tit 1:9-11    |
| 6. 1Co 1:10     | 15. Tit 3:8-11    |
| 7. Eph 4:1-6    | 16. Gal 1:6-9     |
| 8. 2Ti 4:1-5    | 17. Rev 2:2, 20   |
| 9. Heb 5:11-14  | 18. 2Jn 1:9-11    |

27

## Examples of doctrinal errors and immorality we must not place in

### Romans 14

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Instrumental music  | 5. Sexual sins including homosexuality              |
| 2. Local churches doing benevolent and evangelistic work through third party organizations and sponsoring local churches | 6. Social drinking                                  |
| 3. Marriage, divorce and remarriage  | 7. Saints not working to provide for their families |
| 4. Abortion  | 8. Immodest apparel                                 |
|  | 9. Our bodily resurrection                          |
|  | 10. Jesus' second coming                            |

28

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

- From love, the strong are to seek the edifying of the weak brethren not their destruction
- If need be, the strong brother must give up his liberty if it causes a weaker brother to follow him in something he believes is sinful
- When the weak follows the strong and doubts he is doing right, it becomes sin to him

29

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

- Offending a weak brother is not doing something that makes him upset
- Offending a weak brother is not doing something that is sinful in and of itself
- The strong brother offends a weak brother when the weak brother follows Him in doing something that is right but he doubts that he is doing right

30

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

- Christians must always do or not do something without doubt that it is right before God
- If He doubts he is doing right, even if he is doing right, it becomes sin to him
- The Christian that offends, cause his brother to stumble, is sinning before God

31

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

32

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

33

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

Rom 14:18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

34

## Do not put a stumbling block in a brother's way

1. 1Co 8:1, 4, 7-13

35

## All foods are clean but do not offend the weak brother

1. 1Ti 4:1-5

36

Christians prohibited to drink  
intoxicating wine with one exception

1. Pro 23:29-35
2. 1Pe 4:1-3
3. 1Ti 5:23

37

Do not put a stumbling block in  
an unbeliever's way

1. 1Co 10:23-33

38

Exercise Christian liberties privately  
and in good conscience before God

- Christians liberties or self-imposed restrictions are to be practiced privately
- They must be done with a clear conscience before God
- When these indifferent (to God) preferences are elevated to essential doctrines and bound on a local church, they become errors which are condemned

39

Exercise Christian liberties privately  
and in good conscience before God

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

40

Exercise Christian liberties privately  
and in good conscience before God

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

41

Examples of Christian preferences being  
bound on others resulting in errors

1. Col 2:16-17
2. Gal 4:10-11
3. Gal 5:1-6
4. 1Ti 4:1-5

42

## Accept one another

- Based on what he wrote in chapter 14 and the example of how Christ put the Father and others first, even if it meant His suffering including His death, we are to accept, be in fellowship with, one another and bear with each other in matters of opinion that all may grow in unity
- Through prophecies, types and examples, we learn much from the Old Testament

43

## Accept one another

- Jesus came to unite both Jews and Gentiles in one body, the church, that God might be glorified

44

## Accept one another

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

45

## Accept one another

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Rom 15:2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

46

## Accept one another

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

47

## Accept one another

1. Psa 69:9
2. Joh 12:49
3. Joh 8:29
4. Php 2:5-8
5. 1Co 10:6-11

48

## Accept one another

Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

Rom 15:6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 15:7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

49

## Accept one another

Rom 15:8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,

Rom 15:9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

50

## Accept one another

Rom 15:10 Again he says, "REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

Rom 15:11 And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."

51

## Accept one another

Rom 15:12 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

52

## Accept one another

1. Gen 12:1-3
2. Gen 22:18
3. Isa 11:1-10
4. Eph 2:11-16
5. Col 1:18

53

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54

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