

# Romans: Passing Judgement

(Romans 14)

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## Introduction:

1. Romans 14 is perhaps the most difficult passage in the book of Romans.
  1. Perhaps not theologically, but practically.
2. How do Christians get along when we have differences of opinion?
  1. Everyone here has opinions and preferences that we are bound by conscious of upholding.
  2. We are not permitted to bind those options on others.

## I. Do Not Pass Judgement

### A. (Romans 14:1-12)

### B. Who is weak, and who is strong?

1. The Weak
  - a) Those who are bound by consciousness not to violate certain opinions which go beyond what is required.
2. The Strong
  - a) Those who recognize the freedoms that Christ offers and confidently stand in them.
3. Some Thoughts on “Liberalism” and “conservatism.”
  - a) Are you liberal or conservative?
    - (1) The perspective of Anti’s or 1 cup churches?
    - (2) The perspective of a church with “small groups” or “female Children’s minister.”
  - b) It is always easy to extend the “right” hand of fellowship but not the “left.”
    - (1) We need to take doctrinal stands. But we should also be careful not to exclude those whom the lord would include because of our own opinions.
    - (2) God is a God of Grace, but he is also a God of Justice.
  - c) Our desire is not to be “left” or “right.” It's to be Biblical.
    - (1) What that means is: we need balance and discernment, and self-evaluation.
      - (a) There are people who take liberties that ought not to be taken.
      - (b) There are people who bind things that ought not to be bound.

### C. Two Specific Examples

1. To Eat or Not to Eat?
  - a) Do we have the right to participate in something innocent that others may use in a perverse way?
  - b) All food is clean.
    - (1)
2. To Celebrate or not to Celebrate?

- a) The context here is specifically Jewish holidays (Sabbath, feast days, etc.)
  - (1) Is it wrong to Remember God on the Sabbath?
    - (a) Not personally, but it is wrong to bind that conviction on others.
  - b) (Colossians 2:16)
- 3. Here's the Key: Whatever you do, do it for the Lord.

## II. Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

- A. (Romans 14:13-23)
- B. All Things are lawful... but not all things are helpful
  - 1. (1 Corinthians 11:23)
- C. We need to keep stumbling blocks from our brethren.
  - 1. (Mark 9:42)

## III. Let's apply this:

- A. How do we distinguish between opinion and doctrine?
  - 1. Absolute wrongs vs. Contextual wrongs
- B. When do we defer to a weaker brother?
  - 1. Example Playing Cards:
    - a) My Grandparents were conscientiously opposed to playing Cards. What should I do?
      - (1) I understand their concerns, and I understand that cards are not inherently sinful.
      - (2) I should not be restrained by their conscious. I am free to play cards.
      - (3) I would never force them to play cards with me.
      - (4) We did not play cards when we were their guest out of respect for them.
    - b) What if they insisted that we never play cards?
      - (1) They are in the wrong for binding what is not theirs to bind.
      - (2) I am not bound by their conscious. The Weak should not domineer the strong.
      - (3) It may be good for them to learn.
    - c) The Strong should be careful not to force the weak to violate their own conscience.
      - (1) They are conscientiously opposed. I should respect that and not force them to violate their conscience.
    - d) We need to show one another grace.

## Conclusion:

- 1. Let's summarize with one verse that encapsulates this:
  - 1. (Philippians 2:3-4)