### Romans

## Chapter 14

1Therefore, welcome those who are weak in the faith – and don’t try to judge their motives!  
  
2For one person who has [a strong Christian] faith will eat anything [they wish, even what’s forbidden to Jews], but someone else, who’s [spiritually] weak, would [rather] only eat vegetables.  
  
3Those who will eat anything shouldn’t look down on those who won’t, and those who won’t eat anything shouldn’t judge those who do, since God has accepted them both.  
  
4For who are you to judge the house servant of another, since we each stand or fall before our own master?  
  
And we can stand, because the Lord can make us stand!  
  
5Also, some consider one day as more important than others, while others consider each day to be the same as all the rest... However, each of us should be sure of this in our own minds!  
  
6Then those who observe a certain day [as holy] should observe it to the Lord.  
  
Also, those who will eat [anything they wish] should eat it to the Lord, because they’ve thanked God for it.  
  
Likewise, those who won’t eat [anything they wish] should abstain to the Lord, since they too have thanked God [for their food].  
  
7So, none of us should be living just for ourselves, and none of us should be dying just for ourselves.  
  
8For when we live, we live for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord… Because whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord!  
  
9And the reason why the Anointed One died and came to life again was so that he could be the Lord of both the ‘living’ and the ‘dead.’  
  
10So, why are you judging your brothers? Why are you looking down on them? We’ll all stand before the judgment seat of God of the Anointed One! of the Anointed One!<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
11Notice that it is written:  
  
 ‘As I live,’ says Jehovah...  
 ‘Every knee shall bow before Me,  
 ‘And to Me, every tongue will give praise.’  
 [paraphrase of Isaiah 45:23-24, LXX]  
  
12So since each of us must answer for ourselves before God, 13we should stop judging each other, and we shouldn’t be setting anything before our brothers that might cause them to stumble and fall.  
  
  
14Now, I know (and I’ve been persuaded by the Lord Jesus) that no [food] is unclean… It’s only when a man considers something [edible] to be unclean that it’s unclean to him.  
  
15Yet if what you’re eating upsets your brother, you aren’t following the path of love yet!  
  
For you shouldn’t want anyone –for whom the Anointed One died– to be lost over the food that you’re eating… 16Nor should they speak badly of the good things that you’re doing.  
  
17Because, the God’s Kingdom has nothing to do with eating or drinking… Just with righteousness, peace, and the joy of Holy Breath.  
  
18So, those of you who choose to make yourselves slaves in such matters [for the sake of] the Anointed One will be approved both by God and by men.  
  
19And what we should all be doing is trying to do the things that promote peace and to build each other up… 20[We must] stop tearing down the work of God over food!  
  
So although, yes, it’s true that all [food] is clean, it can still be bad for someone who stumbles over what we’re [choosing to] eat!  
  
21Therefore, it isn’t [necessarily] good to eat meat [forbidden to Jews], or to drink wine, or to do anything else that could be a snare to our brothers, 22because we should be sure that the things we believe [to be right] also look good in the eyes of God!  
  
As for someone who doesn’t condem himself over specific things – good for him!As for someone who doesn’t condem himself over specific things – good for him!<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
23However, if he’s unsure about something he’s eating... His lack of faith is condemning him for eating it; because everything that’s not from faith, is sin.