THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

**Romans 14:1-15:13**

**Key Verse 14:17**

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*

1. Read 14:1-5. What should be the attitude of strong and knowledgeable Christians toward those whose faith is weak? What are the “disputable matters” for Christians in Paul’s time and today?
2. Read verses 6-12. What does it mean to do things “to the Lord” (6)? What does it mean to “live or die for the Lord,” and to “belong to the Lord” (8)? In light of verses 9-12, why can we not judge our brothers? What do these verses teach us about Jesus?
3. Read verses 13-18. What should we make up our minds not to do (13)? How did Paul regard “clean” and “unclean” foods? What limits our Christian freedom (14-16)? What are the characteristics of God’s kingdom? How can we please God?
4. Read verses 19-23. Concerning the kingdom of God, what must we make every effort to do? What does “mutual edification” mean? How can we work for peace and build each other up without compromising? What is the bottom line in making decisions about what we do and don’t do?
5. Read 15:1-4. What does it mean to “bear with the failings of the weak”? What can we learn from Christ’s example? How does reading the Scriptures help us find hope in spite of our own weaknesses and those of our brothers (4)? Why is this important? (Refer to 13.)
6. Read verses 5-13. How can people who are very different find true unity? How can we glorify God? How did Christ become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth (8)? What do verses 9-13 teach about God's world salvation plan? Who is the hope of the Jews and Gentiles (12; Eph 2:14-16)?