



## THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

### "One Man's Faith Is Another Man's Poison" Romans 14:1-23

No. 299

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The church at Rome was made up of Jews and Gentiles. This was a potentially volatile mix, and Paul was concerned that the behavior of both would serve to avoid dissension and foster Christian unity.

#### I. Differences of Opinion Are Inevitable. vv. 1-5

- A. There will always be issues.
  - 1. The "food" issue.
    - a. Jewish tradition.
    - b. Christ's teaching. Mark 7:17-19
    - c. Church's position. Acts 15:19-20
  - 2. The "Holy Day" issue.
    - a. Jewish tradition.
    - b. Christ's practice. Matthew 12:1-14
    - c. Church's position. Colossians 2:16
- B. There will always be interpretations.
  - 1. Jewish tendency to legalism.
  - 2. Gentile tendency to liberty.
- C. There will always be irritations.
  - 1. The "weak" irritate the "strong." v. 3
  - 2. The "strong" irritate the "weak." v. 1

#### II. Discernment of Essentials Is Important. vv. 6-13

- A. Convictions matter more than conventions.
  - 1. People are significant.
    - a. In the faith—even if weakly. v. 1
    - b. God has accepted them. v. 3
    - c. Christ died for them. v. 15
    - d. They belong to the Lord. v. 8
  - 2. Christ is Lord.
    - a. We live unto Him.
      - i. Eating as unto Him.
      - ii. Abstaining as unto Him.
    - b. We die unto Him.
  - 3. We will all appear at the "Bema." vv. 10-11
    - a. Each will give account.
    - b. Everybody will account for themselves.
- B. Building up is more appropriate than tearing down.
  - 1. The place of constructive criticism.
  - 2. The place of constructive edification.

#### III. Discipline of Attitudes Is Imperative. vv. 15-23

- A. Be convinced. vv. 5, 14
- B. Be concerned.
  - 1. About the individual.
  - 2. About the kingdom.
- C. Be conciliatory.
  - 1. The recognition of personal freedom.
  - 2. The curtailing of individual rights.
- D. Be considerate.
  - 1. The "strong" consider the impact he makes.
  - 2. The "weak" consider the influence he exerts.