

No looking down on or judging others! (Romans 14:1-12)

Introduction

- Is there a time to separate from other professing Christians?
- What are some secondary issues which Christians can disagree about?
- What two groups in the church at Rome does Paul talk about in **Romans 15:1**?
- What was the ethnic background of some of the Roman Christians?
- What was the ethnic background of most of the Roman Christians?
- Which passage talks about how both groups can be saved?
- Did the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians at Rome always get on?
- What did many Jewish Christians have scruples about?
- What passage helped many Gentile Christians not to have those scruples?
- Who are the “weak in faith”?
- Who are the “strong in faith”?
- Why are the “weak in faith” described as “weak in faith”?

i God accepts us (v1-3)

- What does Paul tell us to do with respect to each other in **v1-2**?
- Why (**v3**)?
- What do you need to do if there is some Christian whom you are treating with contempt?
- What do you need to do if there is some Christian whom you are judging?

ii God owns us (v4-9)

- Why is it inappropriate for one Christian to judge another (**v4**)?
- What is another matter over which some Jewish Christians might have had conscience issues in **v5**?

- Who is “weak” and who is “strong” this time?
- Why, **v6**, might a Jewish Christian keep a fast day?
- Why might a Gentile Christian eat meat?
- Why might a Jewish Christian eat only vegetables?
- What do **v7-8a** say about the Christian’s life and death?
- What does **v8b** add?
- How does **v9** reinforce what **v8b** has said?
- What is Paul’s point in all this?
- What does Paul really stress in this section?
- What should that challenge you to do?
- What is interesting about the way in which Paul deals with a rather petty difference between the Christians in Rome?
- Where do you need to go to if you are involved in a petty dispute with another Christian?

iii God judges us (v10-12)

- What does Paul tell us three times in **v10-12**?
- Why does this mean that we are not to judge one another?
- In what ways do Christians sometimes judge each other?
- Do Christians have anything to fear from the Day of Judgment?
- What is the only way to be safe on the Day of Judgment if you are not a Christian?

Conclusion

- What three things do we need to remember if we are to avoid falling out with each other over petty things?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)