



SAVED TO SERVE

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IS ROMANS 14 A REASON TO DISREGARD THE SABBATH & HEALTH REFORM?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will analyze Romans 14, a chapter which some use to disregard the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath, and which they use as permission to disobey God's health reform principles.

2. What did the apostle Peter say regarding people who read the apostle Paul's writings? 2 Peter 3:15-17

3. Who are we to receive and not to shut away from our company? Romans 14:1

4. How are we not to receive a person who is weak in the faith? Romans 14:1

- a) **Note:** We are not to receive someone to doubtful disputations or, as indicated in the margin, "Not to judge his doubtful thoughts." The word disputation means to argue, to debate, to contend with, dissension, to discriminate.
5. What examples of different opinions does Paul give?
 - a) Romans 14:2 _____
 - b) Romans 14:5 _____
6. What instruction is given although people have different opinions and beliefs? Romans 14:5

7. How are we not to treat others who live differently than we do? Romans 14:3

- a) What does despise and judge mean in the context of this chapter? Romans 14:10

8. Why should we not judge, condemn (Luke 6:37) or set at naught people who differ from us? Romans 14:4

9. To whom is each servant or each person responsible? Romans 14:4

10. What is the lesson that we are to learn in all this? Romans 14:10-12

11. Since God is to judge us all, what reasonable exhortation is given? Romans 14:13

12. How are we to treat a person who is weak in the faith and who has a different opinion on eating things that are clean or unclean? Romans 14:14, 15

13. What warning is given to a person who knows truth but lacks charity towards someone who is weak in the faith and who has different opinions and beliefs? Romans 14:16, 22 **Answer:** Don't let your good be evil spoken of; in other words, you can be right and still mistreat others and misrepresent the gospel. Having faith without love or charity is worthless. See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13.
14. What traits of character comprise the kingdom of God? Romans 14:17, 19
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15. What does Paul highlight as evil in the context of this chapter? Romans 14:20

- a) What does offense mean according to Paul? Romans 5:17, 20
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16. According to Romans 14:21, why is it good not to eat flesh nor to drink wine?

17. What kind of person will be damned? Romans 14:23

- a) **Note:** Therefore, we are to eat, drink, and live by faith: we are to eat, drink and live according to the scriptures. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. See the quotations below from Adventist Pioneer E.J. Waggoner.

"Unfortunately for a good cause, many who embrace vegetarianism condemn those that eat flesh food, and thus separate themselves from the Spirit of Christ. Any work of reform that has lost the spirit of love for others is an unprofitable parade of human vanity." Let us not therefore judge one another any more; but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Verses 13, 21. (September 24, 1903 EJW, PTUK 613.9)

"There are many things that are allowable, which some people with faith that is weak, because it is uninstructed, think to be wrong. Christian courtesy, as laid down in the fourteenth chapter of Romans, requires that the better instructed person should regard the scruples of his weaker brother. To roughly ignore those scruples, although they may be destitute of reason, is not the way to help that brother into a wider liberty. On the contrary, it is the way to discourage him. "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." (July 1, 1895 EJW, PTUK 435.11)

"Thus it becomes evident that the fourteenth chapter of Romans is simply a lesson in Christian courtesy and helpfulness instead of teaching that the Sabbath, or anything else that pertains to the commandments of God, maybe disregarded at pleasure. Consideration is to be shown for "him that is weak in the faith;" but the one who is offended by the keeping of the commandments of God, has no faith at all. (July 1, 1895 EJW, PTUK 436.1)

"The fourteenth chapter of Romans presented to us our duty towards those who are weak in the faith, and who have excessively conscientious scruples with regard to things that are in themselves of no consequence. **We are not judges of one another, but must all appear before one judgment seat. If we have more knowledge than our brother, we are not arbitrarily to bring him to our standard, any more than he is to bring us down to his. Our greater knowledge rather throws upon us the responsibility of exercising the greater charity and patience. The sum of it all is contained in these verses: "For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God."** (July 25, 1895 EJW, PTUK 467.6)

18. What does the apostle Paul say regarding meat which people misinterpret? Romans 14:14, 20

- a) **Note:** Paul is correct. **"Nothing is unclean of itself,"** and **nothing is clean of itself. Read Job 14:4.** God declares what is clean and what is unclean. See also Leviticus 11; Leviticus 17:10-16; Acts 15:19-21, 28, 29; Acts 21:25; Hosea 4:1-6.

19. What does Paul say regarding esteeming a day that people misinterpret? Romans 14:5

a) **Note:** Paul made reference to people's sentiments; he did not say what he believed in that particular verse. Indeed, people do the things that they are persuaded of in their minds. However, according to Romans 14:12, we will all give account to God for our works. When we are ignorant of truth, God winks at it or does not hold it against us (Acts 17:30) but when truth comes to us, we are held responsible for the light that we understand (Luke 12:48).

20. Does the Bible teach that every day is a like? Genesis 2:1-3

a) Is there one day of the week that is more special in the sight of God? Exodus 20:8-11

21. **Further Study:** Read Exodus 16:4, 5, 22, 23, 25 and discover that the phrase "Every Day" is used. However, the seventh-day Sabbath is esteemed higher than the other days of the week. The context of Exodus 16 shows that no secular work is permitted on that day.

22. What did Paul write about the Lord's Sabbath after Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension? Hebrews 4:9-11

23. Did Paul esteem one day of the week higher than the others? Which day did Paul worship on? Acts 13:42-44; Acts 17:2-4; Acts 18:1-4

24. John said that he was in the Spirit on which day of the week? Revelation 1:10

25. Which day is the Lord's day? Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:27, 28

26. **Note:** Notice the following hypocrisy: Sunday-keepers honor Sunday as the "Lord's Day." They view that day as special. Yet, they reference Romans 14:5, 6 to object against others obeying and worshiping on God's seventh-day Sabbath and honoring it as special. Additionally, many Sunday-keepers don't eat some foods the Bible call unclean, yet they reference Romans 14:2, 3 to justify themselves in eating other flesh foods.

27. What should we be found doing, morning by morning, so that God can teach us how to share the truth with others? Isaiah 50:4
