


# ROMANS

FROM NOW ON  
WEEK TWENTY- THREE





**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL  
YOU WITH ALL JOY AND  
PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM,  
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW  
WITH HOPE BY THE POWER  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**ROMANS 15:13 NIV**

**SCAN TO LET US  
KNOW YOU ARE  
PARTICIPATING**





# WEEK TWENTY-THREE

In week twenty-three, we will study Romans 14:1-12. Paul addresses those who are weak in their faith and how those who are strong in their faith should interact with them.

## SERMON NOTES



**1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.**



**6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.**

**Romans 14:1-2 ESV**

# ROMANS WEEK 23 DAY 1

READ: ROMANS 14:1

In verse 1 Paul mentions the weak, he will continue to unpack this for us throughout the end of Romans. What do you think “the one who is weak in faith” (ESV) means?



Paul jumps straight into his point in the first few words. He says, “Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong” (NLT). Immediately, the question on everyone’s mind, what does it mean to be “weak in faith”? This is not a comment on their ability to be religious or follow the rules. N.T Wright says Paul’s point is that the weak in faith “have not worked out, or not as fully as he and some others have done, the consequences of believing in God as creator and Jesus as the crucified and risen Lord.” This is a matter of justification, of whether a person has accepted the full freedom that comes from the cross.



It would have made a lot of sense for there to be two camps of people. Those who had accepted Jesus but held onto Jewish religious practices (the “weak”), and those that assumed they no longer had to hold onto those because they were free in Christ (the “strong”).

What are some examples of this in the church today?

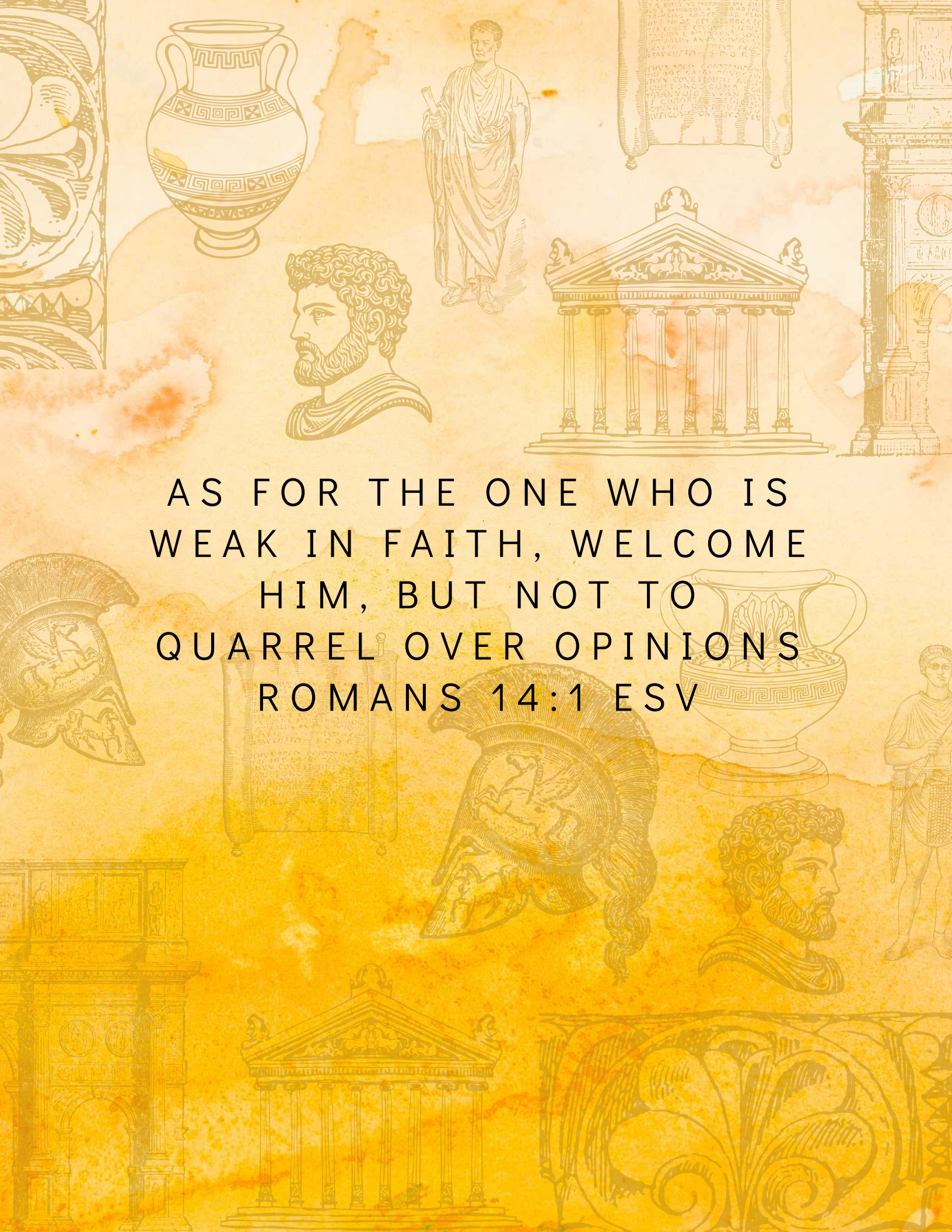


There are many arguments people have, this is why there are so many denominations. Drinking alcohol, praying, fasting, dressing a certain way, etc. The “weak” Paul talks about tend to be, what we would call more legalistic.

AS YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAITH, DO  
YOU SEE YOURSELF AS ONE OF THE WEAK OR  
STRONG?







AS FOR THE ONE WHO IS  
WEAK IN FAITH, WELCOME  
HIM, BUT NOT TO  
QUARREL OVER OPINIONS  
ROMANS 14:1 ESV



# ROMANS WEEK 23 DAY 2

READ: ROMANS 14:2 - 4

Instead of convincing others your way is best what does Paul call believers to do with people they disagree with?



“Eating everything” carries a lot of weight when understanding Jewish culture in the current day Rome. Beverly R. Gaventa says the mention of “everything” could have “hinted at the excess attributed to Gentiles”. The mention of a limit of vegetables, for many, could have been a way to eat Kosher because there was minimal, if any, access to Kosher foods. The weak, or those that were right in keeping those laws were looking down on those who felt free from them. Those who were “strong,” were looking down on those who were still keeping the laws so strictly.

Why would people look down on others who ate differently than them?





This is N.T Wright's summary of these verses,

"Here is a Christian with a strict conscience, whose background, upbringing and temperament all incline him towards a very serious view of his moral responsibilities. As far as he can see (and that phrase is important), the Christian is surrounded by a very wicked, corrupt pagan world. The best thing to do is to shun it completely; and if that means not touching meat, so be it. He then notices that this woman over here, who apparently claims to be a Christian as well, is buying, from the market, meat which has obviously come from a pagan temple. How appalling! She's letting the side down! She and her family are deeply compromised! The only response is condemnation. The Christian woman, meanwhile, has been taught the deep and rich truth that the one true God is the creator and redeemer of all things. The whole world belongs to him, including every piece of meat you might ever buy or cook. She knows perfectly well that she is called to holiness, to a lifestyle very different from that of the pagan world around. But she knows equally well... that outward regulations about what you can and can't touch, taste and handle don't actually go to the heart of genuine holiness... She gets tired of being sniped at and criticized by people who don't seem to have learned what is, for her, one of the most basic and liberating of the gospel's lessons. They seem small-minded, timid, unable to see beyond their own front doors. When she thinks of people like that, she despises them."

REFLECT ON N.T. WRIGHT'S WORDS. HOW DOES THIS  
HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL IS SAYING?

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# ROMANS WEEK 23 DAY 3

READ: ROMANS 14:5

What does being “fully convinced in their own minds” mean?

The Message Version translates verse 5 in this way,

“Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.”

Paul is using special days now as an example. Rome had many festival days as well as typical Jewish traditions. There was dispute on which days should be held and which should not.

Some were convinced all should be held and some were convinced only the Jewish festivals could be held. How could that cause difficulty inside a community?



Paul is talking here about individual convictions. Whether it be something you eat, a certain day of the week or something else that you have thoughtfully prayed through, sometimes God calls us to abstain from things. An example of this could be that you feel like God has called you to not drink alcohol or only listen to a certain type of music. These are not direct commands from God, but are things a person would feel personally convicted of. These can be different for each person and Paul is saying, that if you are fully convinced that the Lord wants this from you, to do it fully. Do not shy away from what the Lord has convinced you of and support others in their own convictions.

HAS THERE EVER BEEN SOMETHING THAT YOU  
FELT LIKE THE LORD WAS TELLING YOU  
SPECIFICALLY TO ABSTAIN FROM?





# ROMANS WEEK 23 DAY 4

READ: ROMANS 14:6 - 9

Paul uses these examples for a reason (eating, drinking, keeping certain days holy). These things would have stood out to Paul's audience, and it would have been natural for them to shun or be against the people that did things differently than them. But instead of being against it Paul encourages us to accept other believers. They could have also felt these issues were important enough to take a stance against one another. This happens often in churches today. We think our opinion on whatever issue is important so we turn against each other. We, instead of looking down on one another should respect each other. Instead of building walls over a technicality, we should work together, lifting one another up in Christ.

What are some other examples of arguments people have in the church today?





What does Paul say is ultimately important?



Paul again and again points to Christ. If we are convinced to do something in the name of Christ then do so faithfully. Ultimately, we are not our own. Verses 6-9 reemphasize this point. We are to honor God in everything we do and in every conviction God gives us.

HOW CAN YOU HONOR GOD IN YOUR OWN  
CONVICTIONS TODAY?





# ROMANS WEEK 23 DAY 5

READ: ROMANS 14:19-23

In verses 10-12 Paul gives God the responsibility of judgement. Why do you think he needed to say this?



So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture: "As I live and breathe," God says, "Every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God." So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

The Message Version Romans 14:10-12

Reflect of The Message Version translation of these verses





Tim Keller quotes John Scott when he says, “How dare we reject a person whom God has accepted? Indeed, the best way to determine what our attitude to other people should be able to determine what God’s attitude to them is. This principal is better even than the golden rule to treat others as we would treat ourselves. It is safe to treat others as we would like them to treat us, but is safer still to treat them as God does.”

Both sides, eaters and abstainers, are doing so to serve God and those who are both weak and strong should ultimately know where they stand in front of God. It is not up to us to judge each other, but as we will dig deeper into next week’s verses, not cause one another to stumble in our convictions.

HAVE YOU EVER FELT YOURSELF JUDGE OTHERS  
THAT ARE MORE OR LESS LEGALISTIC THAN  
YOU? HOW DOES WHAT PAUL SAYS INSTRUCT  
YOU TO LEAVE JUDGMENT UP TO GOD?



# REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

WHAT VERSES (OR VERSE) HAVE STUCK OUT TO  
YOU THE MOST THIS WEEK?



WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING  
YOU TO DO OR BELIEVE THIS WEEK?







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Created by Katie Anderson