




# ROMANS

FROM NOW ON  
WEEK TWENTY-FOUR





**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-FOUR

In week twenty-four, we will study Romans 14:13-23. Paul will further explain his reasoning with the weak and the strong. He will emphasize peace amongst believers even if beliefs are different.

## SERMON NOTES



**13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. 14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. 17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.**



**20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. 22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.**

**Romans 14:13-23 NLT**

# ROMANS WEEK 24 DAY 1

READ: ROMANS 14:13 - 14

What does it mean to not cause another person to stumble?



There are many places in the Bible where Paul and Jesus talk about not causing one another to stumble. Paul gives a similar message in 1 Corinthians 8 (read on the next page) and Jesus talks about it in regards to children in the Gospels.

6 “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Matthew 18:6-9



4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8:4-13

HOW DOES PAUL'S MESSAGE IN 1  
CORINTHIANS 8 AND JESUS' WORDS IN  
MATTHEW REINFORCE WHAT PAUL IS TELLING  
THE CHURCH IN ROME?







FOR THE KINGDOM OF  
GOD IS NOT A MATTER  
OF WHAT WE EAT OR  
DRINK, BUT OF LIVING A  
LIFE OF GOODNESS AND  
PEACE AND JOY IN THE  
HOLY SPIRIT.  
ROMANS 14:19 NLT



# ROMANS WEEK 24 DAY 2

READ: ROMANS 14:15 - 16

How do you love others when their convictions are different than yours?



I am sure we have all had disagreements or even arguments with someone about how they or we conduct our lives in Christ.

Though God is clear on some things, we tend to make other things a bigger deal than they need to be. The Message says, “If you confuse others by making a big issue over what they eat or don’t eat, you’re no longer a companion with them in love, are you?” Paul reminds us to act with the love of Christ toward all believers.

How does this encourage you in your conflicts with others?





The mutual respect for which Paul is calling is therefore one vital aspect of the doctrine of justification by faith itself. Justification, we will recall from the earlier chapters of the letter, is about God anticipating in the present the verdict which will be announced in the future. All those who believe in Jesus the Messiah, the risen Lord, are declared already in the present to be forgiven sinners, to be in the right, to belong to the one renewed people of God. Paul is now appealing for Christians from all backgrounds to make this a reality in their present common life. God has declared both this person and that person to be members of his people.

-N.T Wright

HOW DO YOU REMIND YOURSELF TO VALUE SOMEONE  
IN CHRIST OVER WHAT YOU DISAGREE WITH THEM ON?





# ROMANS WEEK 24 DAY 3

READ: ROMANS 14:17-19

What do the verses say the Kingdom of God is and what it is not about?



What does verse 19 tell us we should aim for?



How does being rooted in Christ help us achieve harmony with each other?





When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

REFLECT ON THE ABOVE HYMN BASED ON  
ROMANS 14, WHEN WE ARE LIVING





# ROMANS WEEK 24 DAY 4

READ: ROMANS 14:20-23

Paul acknowledges here that he believes all foods are safe to eat and again addresses stumbling. Think of something that either you or a friend feel convicted of. How would you feel if Paul said that this thing is generally okay, but to keep your convictions and respect those of others?



Paul warns that if we have doubts, we should not do it. We are to follow our own convictions. How do you decipher what God has truly convicted you of?





God can handle your opinions and preferences,  
but we must be careful about how they affect  
others around us. Our freedom must be used to  
build each other up in kindness and care. Keep  
your opinions and preferences between you and  
God. Humble yourself and choose to live in joy  
and peace with God's bride.

-Vintage Church on Romans 14:20-23

HOW CAN YOUR FREEDOM BE USED TO  
BUILD SOMEONE ELSE UP THIS WEEK?





# ROMANS WEEK 24 DAY 5

READ: ROMANS 14:19-23

How does this week help us keep peace as believers?



Paul is ultimately urging those who are “strong” in their faith to both respect and give grace to those who are “weak” in their faith. They must have humility enough to uplift others instead of criticizing them for holding onto tradition. This takes a great amount of strength.

What is difficult about loving and respecting those who are “weak” in faith?





I specifically love how the Message translates these verses:

“So let’s agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don’t drag them down by finding fault. You’re certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to wreck God’s work among you, are you? I said it before and I’ll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and send them sprawling. When you sit down to a meal, your primary concern should not be to feed your own face but to share the life of Jesus. So be sensitive and courteous to the others who are eating. Don’t eat or say or do things that might interfere with the free exchange of love. Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don’t impose it on others. You’re fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you’re not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe—some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them—then you know that you’re out of line. If the way you live isn’t consistent with what you believe, then it’s wrong.”

REFLECT ON THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION OF  
VERSES 19-23.





# 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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church

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