

## *Studies In Romans*

### **(Romans 14:16-23)**

1. Should we be concerned about others speaking evil of our good?

Yes: *"Let not then your good be evil spoken of"* (**Romans 14:16**).

- **Romans 12:21, II Corinthians 8:20-21, Philippians 2:14-16, I Peter 3:8-17, and II Peter 3:14.**
- Contextually, why would you let authorized liberties cause your influence to be lost (**I Corinthians 10:29-33**).

2. How important is food in the kingdom of our Lord?

Not: *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"* (**Romans 14:17**).

- Christians are presently, on earth, part of the kingdom (**Colossians 1:12-13** and **Hebrews 12:28**).
- The Lord's people should be spiritual in thinking (**Romans 8:4-8**).
- Food/socializing is not part of the work of the kingdom/church (**John 6:26-27, I Corinthians 11:18-34, and Hebrews 13:9**).
- We should be about righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**) and peace (**Philippians 4:6-8**).
- Joy in the Holy Ghost (**Acts 13:52, Romans 15:13, and I Thessalonians 1:6**) which THEY received (**Romans 1:11**) through the laying on of Apostle's hands (**Acts 8:12-24 and Acts 19:1-7**).

3. Whom must we serve to be acceptable to God and approved of men?

Christ: *"For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men"* (**Romans 14:18**).

- "In these things" keeps the context about authorized liberties such as keeping authorized liberties in days (**Romans 14:5-6**) and eating meats (**Romans 14:2**).
- We are supposed to serve our Lord (**John 12:25-26, Romans 6:22, Romans 12:11, Colossians 3:24, and James 1:1**).
- Being approved of men (**II Corinthians 4:1-2 and I Thessalonians 2:10**) though not compromising to do so (**Acts 5:14-29, Galatians 1:10, and Galatians 2:11-17**).

4. Concerning matters of authorized liberties, how focused on peace do we need to be?  
Completely: *“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”* (**Romans 14:19**).

- We should be focused on peace (**Matthew 5:9, Mark 9:50, I Corinthians 14:33, II Corinthians 13:11, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:1-3, Hebrews 12:14, and I Peter 3:10-11**).
- Having said that, there are times wherein peace is impossible because others will not obey the truth (**Luke 12:51-53, Acts 13:40-51, and Acts 14:1-4**).

5. When is it not good to eat or drink certain things?

Eat with offense: *“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 to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak”* (**Romans 14:20-21**).

- We know that it is right to eat meat (**Genesis 1:29-30, Genesis 9:1-4, I Corinthians 8:8, and I Timothy 4:1-5**).
- We cannot say it is good to drink wine in it’s intoxicating form (**Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 23:20-21, Proverbs 23:29-35, Proverbs 31:4-5, Isaiah 5:11, Isaiah 5:22, Isaiah 28:7-8, Hosea 4:11, Habakkuk 2:15, Romans 13:13, I Corinthians 6:9-10, I Thessalonians 5:7-8, Titus 2:1-6, I Peter 4:1-5, and I Peter 5:8**), though the word doesn’t always mean that (**Isaiah 65:8**).
- The point of these two Scriptures is, though something may be pure, if it is a liberty and causes offense to your brother you are to abstain from it (**Romans 14:15, I Corinthians 8:12-13, I Corinthians 9:11-12, and I Corinthians 10:31-33**).

6. How important is it to know that what you’re doing is right?

It is the difference between right and wrong even in matters of authorized liberties: *“Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin”* (**Romans 14:22-23**).

- Have it to thyself before God shows that these matters of personal liberty should not be matters of debate or discussion amongst brethren. Rather, your conclusions can be between you and the Lord (**Romans 14:14**).
- Don’t condemn yourself in that which you hold personally (**Acts 24:16 and I John 3:20-21**). \*Note, a clear conscience doesn’t always mean right actions (**Acts 23:1; cf. I Corinthians 15:9**).
- KNOW before you act (**I Samuel 15:1-28, II Samuel 7:1-7, Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 20:25, Matthew 7:21-23; 28:20, Luke 6:46, I Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:10, I Thessalonians 5:21, and James 2:10-12**).
- Remember, faith comes through the word (**Romans 10:17**).