

THE TRUTH ABOUT ROMANS 14

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1st printing 2000

2nd printing 2007

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Yahweh is LOVE. Yet so many, who think they know the true Elohim and the **real** Yahshua, seem to insist Yahweh gave us commandments and laws to put us into some sort of bondage. The true Elohim of Love gave us a law of liberty, NOT bondage! The real Yahshua gave us commandments of TRUTH and righteousness! Then why do people who claim to know the Master want to use Paul's letters to "do away" with Yahweh's laws or at least justify the breaking of them?

Praise Yahweh! His commandments are FOREVER! (Psalms 111:10). Even the **real** Yahshua said He did NOT come to earth to destroy [or abrogate] any of the pure laws of Yahweh. Read Matthew 5:17 and see. He said blessed are those who DO and TEACH even the "least" commandment!

The 14th chapter of Romans has been twisted, distorted, and misunderstood by many to try to justify their own actions which are contrary to the plain simple commands of the Master, Yahshua Messiah. Let's look into the chapter and see what it really says, verse by verse and in context.

Romans 14

Verse 1 begins by saying..."*Him that is weak in the faith...*" Immediately we know who is being talked about. The Scripture is plainly talking of spiritually weak brethren, probably someone quite new in the truth. And we are to "receive" them, but "not to doubtful disputations."

This means we who are strong are not to pass judgment on disputable matters, [which shall be discussed in this chapter]. It also means we are not to be judging the weak brother's doubts or discussing his opinions. This could disturb his mind and confirm him in a mistake or questionable practice to the point of causing doubt and unbelief.

Verse 2..."*For one believes that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eats herbs.*"

The "all things" refers to eating good, wholesome meat as well as vegetables. Surely it does NOT mean he can eat poison ivy, poison oat, etc. It does not mean he can eat meat that is not fit for human consumption by creation

and not suffer the physical consequences. The weak brother here is a vegetarian.

Immediately we see that the subject of the chapter is the difference between one who eats both meat and vegetables, and another who is weak eating only vegetables. The secondary subject is proper treatment of the issue by not judging one another.

Verse 3..."*Let not him that eats (meat and vegetables) despise (look down upon) him that eats not (only vegetables); and let not him that eats not (only vegetables) judge (condemn or call into question or accountability) him that eats (both meat and vegetables): for Yahweh has received him.*"

Verse 4 shows we are not to judge each other for it is before Messiah we all stand or fall and He is able to make the weak brother stand as well as the stronger one. The weak one is ever whit as much a servant as the stronger Believer. Who are thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for Yahweh is able to make him stand.

Verses 5-6...Here we see that in eating all, or only vegetables, one man might decide one day of the week or month as special for abstaining from food [fasting]- or - from meat. Whichever he does, he does it to the Master. [Although Yahshua said Believers should fast, He did not set any specific day (except the Day of Atonement), and each individual decides which day is best for him].

"*One man esteems one day above another: another [man] esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*" About what? On context it is talking of eating or not eating.

"*He that regards the day, regards it unto the Master, and he that regards not the day, to the Master he does not regard it. He that eats, eats to the Master, for he gives Yahweh thanks; and he that eats not, to the Master he eats not, and gives Yahweh thanks.*"

Carefully note:

1. It has to do with a day of the week or month.
2. The man himself determines which day is special for a specific purpose mentioned in the text itself.
3. IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH A MAN

DETERMINING FOR HIMSELF ONE DAY ABOVE ANOTHER AS BEING HOLY!!

4. ONLY YAHWEH, THE ALMIGHTY, CAN MAKE A DAY HOLY!! HE HAS MADE THE SEVENTH DAY of the week KODESH and seven other days throughout the year KODESH! A man is either in agreement with Yahweh and His love portrayed so vividly in His Kodesh Days...or...in opposition to Yahweh and days He, and He alone, MADE KODESH!

[Write from a free article "The Day of Yahweh". It shows how Yahshua worked over 29,000 miracles to show to over two million people which day of the week is HOLY!

5. You may recall in Luke 18:11, the custom in Yahshua's day among at least some of the Pharisees was to fast twice each week. The Pharisee was fully convinced, fully persuaded to count two days of each week as special for the purpose of not eating. That is the same idea being conveyed in Romans 14:5-6. Those two days the Pharisees counted as special gave him NO BETTER STANDING WITH YAHWEH, than one who did not. Yet he passed judgment on the publican, which Paul says we must not do to one another.

Verses 7-9...Self-explanatory. We have been purchased totally by the blood of our Savior. As a result, whether we live or die, our lives are hid with Messiah in Yahweh.

Verse 10...The word judge here in Greek means to "call into question," or "decide judicially or mentally." It also implies "to condemn." There verse could be more easily understood this way..."But why do you call your brother into question? Why do you decide judicially - being critical (as if you were his judge)? Why do you decide your brother is insignificant, of no value? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Messiah."

What is Paul leading up to? He is showing we had better be very careful, for as we criticize, and call into question or judge a brother, the same yardstick of judging will be used against us by Yahshua Messiah. Notice how plain it is in the next two verses.

Verses 11-12..."For it is written, As I live, says Yahweh, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess (agree fully) to Elohim. So then every one us shall give account of himself to Yahweh."

Can we ever get through to our minds the understanding that we are not all robots on everything we do in our daily lives? We need to allow for differences such as whether a person wears make-up or not; whether or not a tie is worn to Sabbath services; whether some one is a vegetarian or not; or drinks a little alcoholic beverage now and then; or on what day or days another brother might fast; or whether birthdays are celebrated or not. Our individual lives are not to be regulated or judged by some supposed super understanding of some "super" brother or minister.

On the other hand, the eternally important things are to receive those who are weak without calling them into question. The BIG things have already been taken care of in his life. He has repented of breaking Yahweh's laws and seeks to do EVERYTHING His Savior commands. This includes all of the Ten Commandments [even the 4th]. He strives to keep them in all their spiritual intent (love to Yahweh FIRST, then love to neighbor). That brother has given up making excuses, or justifying himself, in not keeping certain commands of Yahweh. He is trying to live by EVERY Word of Yahweh, and has come out of the world's Babylon religious confusion, ignorance, and Sun worship. Therefore, the small things are not to be called into question by the brethren. This could put a stumbling block in a brother's way. See verse 13.

Verse 14...goes into another issue entirely. *"I know, and am persuaded by the Master Yahshua, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteems (regards) anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean."*

This verse is NOT talking about chemically "unclean" food mentioned in Leviticus 11, which food is not fit for human consumption. It is talking about the fact that good clean meat is not, of itself, defiled by offering to an idol. Offering to an idol does not render the meat unfit for human consumption. IF it is clean meat as described in Leviticus 11 to begin with. If to eat it would defile a brother's conscience, then to him it has been defiled and he should not eat it.

Understand, if you were to buy some meat in the market AFTER it had been offered to an idol, and you DID NOT KNOW it had been, then by all means eat it without even asking. If, however, it is made known the meat HAS been offered to an idol, DON'T EAT IT! See Acts 15:29.

Then in verse 15, if you take your liberty to eat what your brother feels is "defiled", then that is not an act of love, for it troubles your weak brother. Thus in verse 16 even though you know you can, and be going good, (by eating good clean

meat even if it had been offered to an idol unknowingly), your good would be evil spoken of, looked down upon. Chances are, your brother could eat with a defiled conscience and SIN.

We conclude then in verse 17... "*The Kingdom of Yahweh is not meat and drink; but righteousness (commandment keeping... Psalms 119:172), and peace (Psalms 119:165), and joy in the Holy Spirit.*"

Of course verse 18... "*For he that in these things (just mentioned in 17b) serves Messiah is acceptable to Yahweh, and approved of men.*"

Consequently verse 19... "*Let us (both weak and strong) therefore follow after the things that make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify (build up, encourage) one another.*" We are not to destroy Yahweh's work over a piece of meat.

Verse 20...Even though the meat is still good to eat, yet if a man eats it with a defiled conscience, or it is an offense to him when he sees one with right understanding eat "ceremonially defiled" meat, it is evil for him.

Verse 21...The best thing is to not eat any flesh, nor drink wine, nor do anything which would cause a brother to stumble, be offended, or made weak, or weaker.

Verse 22...Do you have faith to eat clean meat sold at market without asking questions? that is a private thing between you and Yahweh. You will be happy in eating that which your faith allows.

Verse 24...Yet if a person doubts, or makes a difference, and he cannot eat of faith, then if he does eat, he is judged, he "condemns" himself, because he defiled his conscience. Because whatsoever is not done in faith IS SIN!

After studying Romans 14, turn to I Corinthians 8 and read it carefully. You should have a better understanding of that chapter as well.

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