

## **Quarrels and the Kingdom**

Lesson 18 | Romans 14

Whatever the Bible says is final, but what about issues that aren't clearly spelled out in Scripture one way or another? What do we do when people who love God and want to do what is right read the Bible and come to different conclusions about what it means for their lives?

## Don't Judge or Look Down on Another Christian (1-12) The \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone Will Have (1-3) Christians will not agree on everything. As a result, some believers look down on other Christians who have stricter standards than they do. Other believers judge their fellow Christians with looser standards. thinking that they are sinning and should repent. The Everyone Should Make (4-6) We must remember that every believer is going to give an account to God. We are servants of God and need to be careful we don't try to play the role of God in someone else's life as if they were our servant and owed us an explanation for their behavior. Everyone must be fully convinced in their mind, while giving their neighbor the right to come to a different conclusion if they are fully convinced in their mind. The \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone Should Have (7-9) When we argue over differences, it can be easy to lose focus on what truly matters. In this section Paul reminds the Romans that whether we live or die, the point of all that we do is to live for the Lord Jesus.

This doesn't mean there is no room to talk about disagreements. But



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far too often believers begin to arrogantly think they have everything figured out and everyone must think exactly like them. The Everyone Will Give (10-12) None of this means that the choices we make don't matter. We should take incredibly seriously the idea that we will stand before God to give an account of what we do and don't do. Don't Trip up Another Christian (13-23) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Offending Another Christian (13-16) We should never want to do anything that would cause a believer to not be ready to give a good account on judgment day. Paul describes this as putting a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in a fellow Christian's way. Nothing we do should make it easy for another Christian to sin or to make a choice that they believe is wrong. The \_\_\_\_\_ All Christians Should Strive Toward (17-20a) Too often these discussions that believers get into detract from what our faith should really be about. Paul put it this way, "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink." In other words, what we have been called to in the gospel is so much bigger than the petty squabbles that too many get lost in. Paul wants his audience to take a step back from these issues and remember the purpose behind God's calling for their life. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Living out Faith (20b-23) Everything we do should be practically living out our faith before God. The person who thinks it's okay to eat meat or non-Kosher food should do so because they are motivated by faith in what God has said. The person who refrains from eating those things should do so because they are motivated by faith in what God has said. Paul says

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