

- DIFFERENCES OF OPINION -

Paul now discusses the forbearance necessary between the weak and the strong. Some members of the church are "not rooted & grounded in the faith", not fully instructed in Christian knowledge.

Many Jews in church at Rome, & we know that Jews were inclined to bind the Gentile converts to their Jewish rites & customs, & observance of Mosaic ceremonies. Main subjects were circumcision, days of fasting, distinction of clean & unclean meats, etc. Circ. dealt with in Ch. 3 & 4.

Here he deals with eating of meat sac. to idols, eating meat formerly considered unclean, observing Jewish feast days.

V 1- What should we do with him weak in faith? Receive into fellowship, but not for the purpose of discussing or passing judgment on doubts they may have in their mind. Idea is that disputes over matters of opinion should not stand in way of fellowship.

WHY ARE SOME WEAK IN FAITH? (Not saving faith, but Christian knowledge) Have not been fully instructed.

It is weak when troubled over untaught & doubtful questions.

Sinful to disturb peace & harmony of congregation by discussion of untaught questions.

Continual discussion will destroy harmony. Such questions have no bearing on character of man. *or salvation*

WHY DID QUESTIONS ARISE ABOUT EATING OR NOT EATING MEAT?

flesh of animals offered (partly) in sacrifice was offered in markets for sale. One could not be sure he was not getting such meat. Jewish Christians, with Judaistic leanings believed it was still wrong to eat meat considered unclean under O.T. law. Perhaps some believed, like Essenes, that it was wrong to eat any meat, only vegetables. Disputes arose over this.

Paul is saying to take these people into fellowship without making conditions concerning meats. These things were matters of opinion, & we should not pass judgment on others concerning things in realm of opinion. Neither side should make nuisance of selves.

DONOT DESPISE- Donot look with disdain on those whose faith is not strong as ours regarding these matters.

V 4- Why should WE NOT JUDGE ANOTHER MAN IN THE REALM OF OPINION? He is another's servant, not ours. He is accountable only to Lord. If he is faithful in matters on which God has legislated, God will make him stand regardless of peculiarities of opinion provided he does not bind his opinions on others.

V 5- SECOND DIFFERENCE WAS CONCERNING OBSERVING HOLY DAYS. Some who did not fully understand that ~~Jewish sabbath & new moons~~ covenant was ended felt that Jewish sabbath & new moons should be kept sacred. If Christian felt he should rest on these days, & worship God, it was all right to do so until such time as he learned the truth. Paul was willing for ceremonial law to wither by degrees. Gal. 4:9-11- The Gala-

tians were condemned bec. they were Gentiles trying to re-enact the law of Moses, & were thus condemned.

V 5- What SHOULD BE RULE OF ACTION FOR OB* SERVING OR NOT OBSERVING ANY DAY?

Fully persuaded in own mind.

DOES PAUL HAVE LORD'S DAY IN MIND IN V 5?
No. It is not matter of indifference whether we keep Lord's Day. Proof: V 6-

Those who keep special days, do so to honor the Lord. Those who donot keep them, donot keep them in out of honor to God, believing that He has taken them out of the way. CAN ANYONE NOW SAY THAT HE IS NOT KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY OUT OF A CONSCIENTI* OUS DESIRE TO HONOR CHRIST?

Whatever we do, keep days or not keep them, eat meat or not eat it, do it to honor God. Always giving thanks, the one who eats meat thankful for it, ^{variety provided} and one who eats not, thankful that he has enough without it.

Lesson to give thanks before eating. Practiced from time of Christ, and early church.

V 7- LIVE OR DIE TO LORD- Never our own master, at liberty to regulate our own conduct acc. to own wills. Servant of Christ whether we live or die. Proves soul does not cease to be conscious at death. We do not pass from Christ's dominion when we die.
V 9.

OUR REGARD FOR OTHER PEOPLE-

Christians must not do anything which will cause a brother to stumble or sin. We must not pass judgment on people, when God has not done so.

V 10- We shall stand before judgment seat

to be judged of God, acc. to his law given,
not acc. to opinions of man.

WHEN SHALL EVERY KNEE BOW & TONGUE CONFESS?
At judgment. Confession not made till then
will be too late.

V 12- WHAT MUST EACH MAN DO FOR HIMSELF?

Account for how we spent our time.

" " " : used our opportunities.

" " what we have done, how
we have done it.

WHAT WILL BE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT? REVEALED
will of God.

HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIS WILL IN BIBLE?

Precept or example. If that is given, it
is not matter of opinion, or of indifference
Lord's supper - Lord's day.

Church - Medium of doing his service &
spreading the gospel.

These things not matters of indifference.

V 13* HOW DO WE JUDGE ONE ANOTHER? By
erecting rules where God has ordained none.
If we must sit in judgment, how can it be
done? JUDGE OWN CONDUCT. NOT DO ANYTHING
THAT WOULD CAUSE BROTHER TO SIN.

Ex.: Those who are strong can eat meat of-
fered to idol, knowing that it is nothing.
A weak brother whose conscience is still
tender toward the idol, had not lost all
reverence for idol, seeing the strong eat
meat thus offered, might be tempted to eat
in spirit of worship to idol, be led back
to idolatry.

TODAY; A CHRISTIAN WHO BY HIS EXAMPLE LEADS
ANOTHER INTO SIN, SINS AGAINST HIS WEAK
BROTHER, AND AGAINST CHRIST, WHO DIED FOR

HIM. ~~_____~~ *Sake of argument*
WIDE APPLICATION TODAY: Taking one drink-
able to control appetite, another might not
be able to. Led to sin & despair, drunken-
ness.

Dancing in home, chaperoned, no evil thoughts
or desires. Someone else following example
might not be that strong, led to downfall.

missing church Sun, Wed night
V-14- NOTHING UNCLEAN- all-meats accept-
able to God. Peter's vision.

Rule of conscience.- not to be offended.

Conscience does not determine right or
wrong, only witnesses whether or not we
have done acc. to that we THINK IS RIGHT.
To violate conscience makes man untrue to
himself. He cannot then be true to anything.
God will not acc. service from defiled con-
science, to know right & follow wrong de-
files it.

EX. : Doing what we know is wrong just be-
cause father & mother did it. Num. 15: 27-31.

Rich man + wife .. Honest parents
V 15- IF WE USE OUR CHRISTIAN LIBERTY IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAD BROTHER INTO SIN,
WHAT DOES PAUL SAY OF OUR WALK?

1 Jno. 3:14; Jno. 13:34, 35. *not in love*

Many things which are right within themselves
may be inexpedient under certain circum-
stances. We must create a disturbance by
our opinion, even if it is a good one.

V 16- LET NOT YOUR GOOD BE EVIL SPOKEN OF:
That which you think to be right, may be
in itself.

Donot do such things to produce contention
& strife, causing world to speak evil of
church. Be willing to yield private opinion

Today's news

to cause of peace.

V 17- KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT EATING & DRINK*
ING- Peculiarities of church of Christ do
not consist in observing distinctions as
to meat & drink, as Jews had done under
Law of Moses. Catholic church has no
authority for making these distinctions.

RIFHTEOUSNESS- right relation with God.
PEACE- right relation with brethren, no
contention or discord.
JOY- Personal happiness produced by gospel.

V 19- FOLLOW AFTER THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR
PEACE - not untaught questions which gender
strife. Why do THESE THINGS PRODUCE STRIFE?
No authority to settle differences.
2 Tim. 2:23 1 Tim 1:4;

20- FOREGO YOUR RIGHT TO EAT MEAT RATHER
THAN TO DESTROY THE WORK OF GOD IN A WEAK
BROTHER. See 1 Cor. 10:27,28.

EAT WITH OFFENCE- Eat as to lead others
into sin, or cause them to stumble.

V 21- Give up ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT MAKE
BROTHER SWUMBLE- Christ gave up heaven, his
life, to help us

Man is under obligation to refrain from
wine, lest his example lead someone to sin
& be ruined. Even tho wine was drunk by
Jews then, it was not the type of wine
prevalent today. It was the pure juice
of the grape. Today's wine ~~is~~ contains
alcohol

1 Peter 4:3

V 22- HAVE THY FAITH TO THYSELF-

If you have the faith that would enable you to eat meat offered to an idol, keep it to yourself for your brother's sake. Donot use it to lead others to sin, thus condemning yourself.

Happy is man who does not persist in exercising his rights, thus leading a weak brother to sin, & condemning himself by so doing.

V23- Is it sinful to do something which one thinks is wrong, even tho it might not be wrong?

Is it right to do something which one thinks is right, but which is actually wrong?

*Law of God makes it wrong.
Honesty not enough*

Why the difference?

Our consciences must be respected. One who continually violates his convictions soon loses all sense of right & wrong, hardens his heart, and makes reformation impossible.

WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN-

Faith comes by hearing word of God.

Whatever we do in religion that is not taught by word of God is sin, because it cannot be of faith.

matters of doctrine

*Doing things doubtful
(Indifferent things)*

If you have the faith that would enable you to eat meat offered to an idol, keep it to yourself for your brother's sake. Goodness is to lead others to sin, thus condemn- ing yourself.

How is man who does not persist in exercising his rights, thus leading a weak brother to sin, & condemning himself by so doing.

10 - Is it sinful to do something which one thinks is wrong, even tho it might not be wrong?

It is right to do something which one thinks is right, but which is actually wrong.

Why the difference?

Our consciences must be exercised. One who continually violates his convictions soon loses all sense of right & wrong, hardness his heart, and makes restoration impos- sible.

10 - IS THE FAITH OF THIS?

Faith comes by hearing the word of God. However we do not believe that is not true by word of God is sin, because it cannot be of faith.