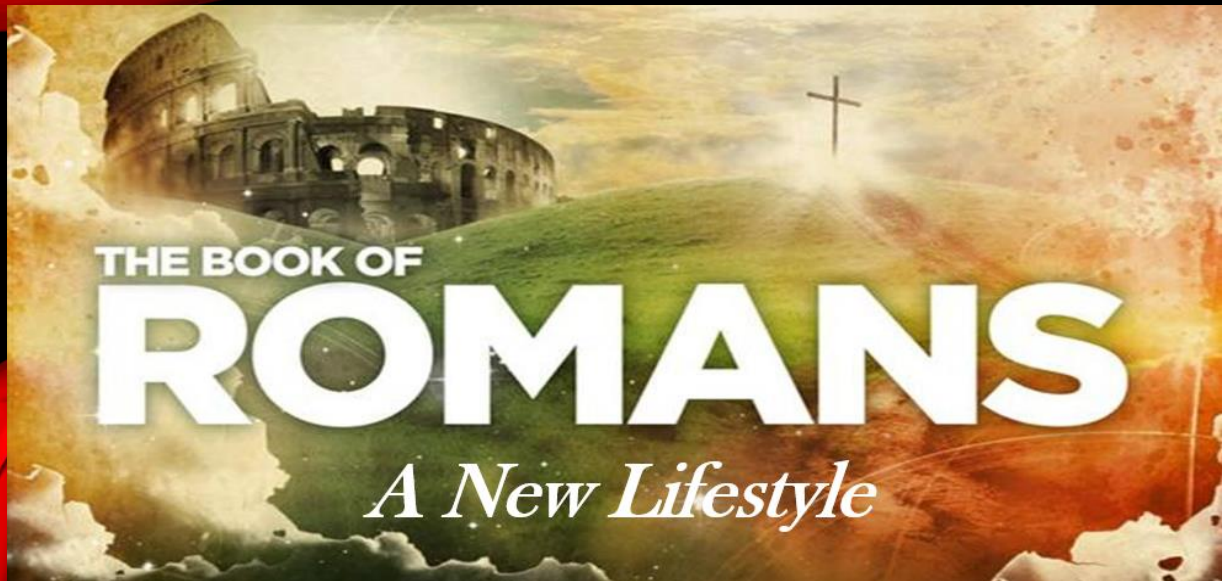


# SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



## SRMBC OCTOBER BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Date	Lesson Title	Scripture
10/10/2018	To Eat or Not to Eat	Romans 14
10/17/2018	No Study - PBSC	N/A
10/24/2018	Unity Hope & Praise	Romans 15:1 - 13
10/31/2018	Sharing the Mission	Romans 15:14 – 33
11/7/2018	Keeping Friends	Romans 16

## SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Romans: A New Lifestyle: Lesson 17: To Eat or Not To Eat Romans 14

#### The Apostle Paul – The Letter to the Romans

- **Author:** Romans 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Romans as the apostle Paul.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Romans was likely written A.D. 56-58.
- **Purpose of Writing:** His purpose in writing was to proclaim Jesus Christ by teaching doctrine and edify and encourage the believers.

##### The Book Of Romans Tells Us:

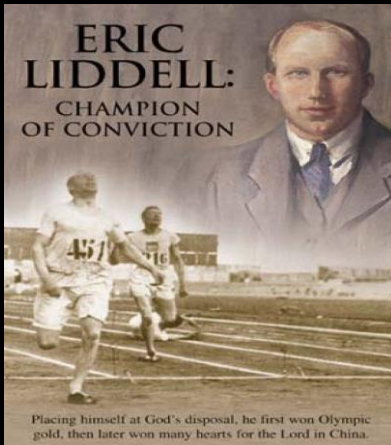
- About **God**, who He is and what He has done.
- It tells us of **Jesus Christ**, what His death and resurrection accomplished.
- It tells us **about ourselves**, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ.



Group Discussion:

In the 1924 Olympics Eric Liddell refused to run a qualifying race on Sunday, even though failure to qualify would eliminate him from competition.

He believed that to run on Sunday would break the commandment "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Exodus 20:8). Do you think his decision was right or wrong? Explain.

Right Decision?

- Honored his personal Godly conviction.
- Made an impact on those around him.
- Gave him an opportunity to witness to others.

Wrong Decision?

- It is possible to both honor God and Sunday.
- Maybe he missed out on God-Given opportunity to medal for His Glory.
- The Sabbath/Sunday may have become an idol – Worship God and not the Sabbath.

## Romans 14:1 - 5 (NKJV)

**1** Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but not to **disputes over doubtful things**.

**2** For **one** believes he may **eat all things**, but he who is **weak** eats **only vegetables**.

**3** Let **not him who eats despise him who does not eat**, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for **God has received him**.

**4** **Who are you to judge another's servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand**.

**5** One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. **Let each be fully convinced in his own mind**.

## Romans 14:6 - 10 (NKJV)

6 He who observes the day, **observes it to the Lord**; and he who does not observe the day, **to the Lord he does not observe it**. He who eats, **eats to the Lord**, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and **gives God thanks**.

7 For **none of us lives to himself**, and no one dies to himself.

8 For if we live, **we live to the Lord**; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end **Christ died and rose and lived again**, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 But **why do you judge your brother?** Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ**.

## Romans 14:11 - 15 (NKJV)

11 For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, **And every tongue shall confess to God**."

12 So then **each of us shall give account** of himself to God.

13 Therefore **let us not judge one another anymore**, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

14 **I know and am convinced** by the Lord Jesus that **there is nothing unclean of itself**; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. **Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died**.

## Romans 14:16 - 20 (NKJV)

16 Therefore do not let **your good be spoken of as evil**;

17 for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy** in the **Holy Spirit**.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is **acceptable to God** and approved by men.

19 Therefore let us pursue the things which **make for peace** and the things by which **one may edify another**.

20 **Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food**. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.

## Romans 14:21 - 23 (NKJV)

21 **It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles** or is offended or is made weak.

22 Do you have faith? **Have it to yourself before God**. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for **whatever is not from faith is sin**.

1. What are some areas of dispute between the “weak” and the “strong” in verses 1-6? What types of behavior do Christians disagree about today?

### The “Weak” Believers

- But he who is weak eats only vegetables
- He who eats certain meats/food IAW OT law/tradition
- One person esteems one day above another

### The “Strong” Believers

- For one believes he may eat all things
- All meats/food are clean when offered in thanksgiving to God
- Another esteems every day alike

1. What are some areas of dispute between the “weak” and the “strong” in verses 1-6? What types of behavior do Christians disagree about today?

For modern Christians, a “Romans 14 issue” might take any one of a number of forms:

- Christians wearing or not wearing of head coverings (or other issues related to clothing).
- Whether or not celebrating secular holidays is permissible, Public school vs. Homeschooling.
- The use of birth control vs. trusting God to determine family size.

*Though believers can take strong stands on both sides of these issues, the disagreements are not settled in the Bible in terms that remove all legitimate debate.*



**2. What attitudes do the weak and the strong tend to have toward each other (vv. 1 - 4)? Why might they feel this way?**

### Attitudes of the "Weak" and the "Strong"

- Superiority over the other (Judging)
- Anger/Hatred (Despising)
- Shunning (Failure to receive each other as family)

### Points to Ponder

- Both may be wrong
- One may be wrong
- Neither may be wrong



**3. Why is it wrong to pass judgment on other Christians (vv. 1-13)?**

- God has received both the weak and strong in matters of conscience or Christian Freedom
- Your "weak" brother is not your servant – but God's. We are not anyone's Judge – God is.
- When someone does or doesn't do something – it is unto the Lord's
- When someone sincerely conducts themselves in areas of disagreement with a clear conviction and conscience the Lord get the praise/thanksgiving.
- No one lives for themselves but to the Lord – the Lord of all.
- Christ is the One who is the Savior, Lord and Judge – that we all must give and account of our own behavior.
- To put a stumbling block before one of our brothers by judging is sin.

### 3. Why is it wrong to pass judgment on other Christians (vv. 1-13)?

#### What Romans 14 Does Not Say:

- It does not say that all opinions regarding matters of conscience are equally valid.
- That Christians should go against their own conscience in order to accommodate believers who disagree. When someone does or doesn't do something – it is unto the Lord's.
- That Christians should refrain from judging a believer who is engaging in obvious sin.
- That the convictions of the weakest brother or sister should determine the acceptable exercise of liberty in a local church.

### 4. When we are not around those whose faith is weak, what principles should govern our Christian liberty (vv. 5-23)?

*We must be careful to understand what Paul means by "weak" faith. Paul does not mean a weak trust in God but rather an incomplete or inaccurate understanding of the Christian life.*

- Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind.
- In everything you do - exercise your faith as unto the Lord.
- Have the mindset of bringing peace.
- In matters of dispute or preference – don't be pushy. Have it to yourself and to God.



5. When we are around those whose faith is weak, what principles should guide our actions, and why (vv. 13-21)?

- Do not wrongly judge one another anymore.
- Be resolved not to cause our brothers to fall.
- Do not destroy with your food/freedom the one for whom Christ died.
- Do not let your good be spoken of as evil.
- **Christians are to be governed by the law of love (14:13-18).**
- Understand that the Kingdom of God is not earthly issues, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- A clear conscience and faith should govern what we do.

6. Someone somewhere is bound to be offended by almost anything we do! How can we practically apply these principles?

Paul is certainly not telling us to give up every practice that is disapproved of by other Christians.

Some Applications can be:

- When the weak are hurting, troubled, confused, we dare not gloat in our self-sufficiency— even if they should have been “*more mature by now!*”
- Accepting one another as Christ accepted you, and working patiently with one another as Christ works with you.
- If you have personal convictions that differ from others, keep them to yourself unless asked, or unless the issue comes up.

7. “A Christian man is a most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” How do these words summarize the essence of this chapter?

- We should handle whatever issues we face concerning the exercise of Christian freedom with the overall good of the church as our highest goal.
- We should be happy to exercise our liberty in ways (and contexts) where no harm is caused to a brother who differs with us.



8. In what ways do you need either to become more free in your choices or to take into account your influence on others?

**We should also be willing when necessary to say with Paul, “if [\_\_\_\_\_] causes my brother to stumble, I will never [\_\_\_\_\_] again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble”**

*Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. 1 Cor. 8:13 (NKJV).*

## KEYS FOR LIVING

- *In areas of life where the Bible doesn't have a specific command or principle, believers can disagree without being disagreeable.*
- *It is better to forgo your own Christian Liberty in order to preserve the faith of a weaker brother or sister (ex. not eating pork or shellfish, etc.)*
- *It is important to remember that we are not saved by what we eat or don't eat (or any thing we do) but because of the Person and Work of Christ.*



QUESTIONS

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