

**The Strong Believer and the Weak Believer:  
Questionable Functions and Behaviour – Christian Liberty  
Romans 14:01–23**

**1. *Accept the weak brother***

- a. Without arguing,  
without criticizing
- b. The reason:  
There is a difference  
in the conduct of believers,  
differences not spelled out  
by Scripture

1 Accept him whose faith is weak,  
without passing judgment  
on disputable matters.

2 One man's faith allows him  
to eat everything,  
but another man,  
whose faith is weak,  
eats only vegetables.

**2. *Do not look down on  
or judge (criticize) others***

- a. God has accepted the strong
- b. No person has the right  
to judge the Lord's servant
- c. God will hold up His servant

3 The man who eats everything  
must not look down on him who does not,  
and the man who does not eat everything  
must not condemn the man who does,  
for God has accepted him.

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant?  
To his own master he stands or falls.  
And he will stand,  
for the Lord is able to make him stand.

**3. *Be fully convinced of  
right and wrong behaviour***

- a. In your own mind,  
not violating your conscience:  
Be careful to do no wrong
- b. A man is to live as he sees  
and understands God's will

5 One man considers one day  
more sacred than another;  
another man considers every day alike.  
Each one should be fully convinced  
in his own mind.

6 He who regards one day as special,  
does so to the Lord.  
He who eats meat, eats to the Lord,  
for he gives thanks to God;  
and he who abstains,  
does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

**4. *Watch out – watch what you do***

- a. You are under  
the watchful eye of Christ

7 For none of us lives to himself alone  
and none of us dies to himself alone.

b. You belong to Christ  
– in life and death

c. You have been purchased  
by the Lord's death  
and resurrection

**5. *Leave the judgment up to God***

a. Because everyone  
will be judged by Christ

b. Because every knee  
will bow and confess  
that Christ alone is God

c. Because everyone will give  
an account of himself to God

**6. *Judge only one thing:  
Stumbling blocks***

a. By watching the things  
that people think are unclean

b. By acting in love:  
Not hurting, wounding,  
ruining others

8 If we live, we live to the Lord;  
and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So, whether we live or die,  
we belong to the Lord.

9 For this very reason,  
Christ died and returned to life  
so that he might be the Lord  
of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then,  
why do you judge your brother?  
Or why do you look down on your brother?  
For we will all stand  
before God's judgment seat.

11 It is written:  
"As surely as I live," says the Lord,  
'every knee will bow before me;  
every tongue will confess to God.'"

12 So then,  
each of us will give  
an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment  
on one another.  
Instead, make up your mind  
not to put any stumbling block or obstacle  
in your brother's way.

14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus,  
I am fully convinced  
that no food is unclean in itself.  
But if anyone regards something as unclean,  
then for him it is unclean.

15 If your brother is distressed  
because of what you eat,  
you are no longer acting in love.  
Do not by your eating destroy your brother  
for whom Christ died.

<p><b>7. Give no occasion for criticism</b></p> <p>a. Because the Kingdom of God is the believer's concern, not pleasure</p> <p>b. Because serving Christ and the Kingdom of God pleases God and men</p> <p><b>8. Pursue things that bring peace and edification</b></p> <p><b>9. Do not destroy or ruin the work of God in another person's life: It is sin to do so</b></p> <p><b>10. Do nothing to cause a brother to fall</b></p> <p><b>11. Watch and do not condemn yourself</b></p> <p>a. By keeping your faith</p> <p>b. By not going against conscience</p> <p>c. By acting on faith, from a conviction that God approves your behaviour</p>	<p>16 Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.</p> <p>17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>18 Because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.</p> <p>19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.</p> <p>20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.</p> <p>21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.</p> <p>22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.</p> <p>23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.</p>
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