

## Romans 14 - cont.

---

tice liberty. We need to exercise forbearance, gentleness, patience, etc. We do not need to have a lordship over another's personal "faith" (2 Corinthians 1:24). We need to be willing to forgo a liberty (1 Corinthians 8:13) and be selfless (1 Corinthians 10:24,33).

However in matters of "the faith" (the NT gospel), we need to practice unity (Ephesians 4:13). What do we do with "the faith"? We continue in it (Acts 14:22), are strengthened in it (Acts 16:5), stand fast in it (1 Corinthians 16:13), preach it (Galatians 1:23), strive for it (Philippians 1:27), fight for it (1 Timothy 6:12), contend earnestly for it (Jude 3; see Acts 13:8-10).

Romans 14 has been abused when brethren fail to use it and so they divide over every matter including matters of opinion. Romans 14 has also been abused when brethren put matters in the chapter that don't belong there in order to broaden fellowship with people in sin. Both are wrong!

A chapter in the NT that teaches unity has become a source of division among brethren! Let us all use Romans 14 properly the way the Holy Spirit intended it to be used. - *Chris Reeves*

## - Thought of the Week -

---

The Apostle Peter wrote that worldly people will think me "strange" when I do not engage in their worldliness with them (1 Peter 4:4). But, my focus this week will not be on what worldly people think of me one way or the other. My focus will be on what God thinks of me. Am I pleasing to God? Am I making him happy? I cannot make everyone in the world happy, but I can make God happy. He does not think that I am "strange". He thinks that I belong to his special family (1 Peter 2:9).

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
290 Warfield Blvd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website  
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm  
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!  
For More Information Call  
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By  
Chris Reeves  
(615) 389-3250  
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com  
TheGoodTeacher.com

# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

---

May 14, 2023



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Romans 14: Used and Abused - Part 4

I conclude this series of articles on Romans 14 by continuing to look at how some people have abused this chapter. I also want to remind us of its proper use as well.

Paul wrote Romans 14 to teach brethren how to be unified in matters of scruple or opinion. He did not write this chapter to teach unity on matters of right and wrong, or matters that are unlawful and unscriptural. Paul's application then and the many false applications today are two different things.

### Romans 14 Abused

Today, many religious people, and some brethren, put matters of sin and error into Romans 14 and say that we should just all get along in matters of sin and error. But let's be honest. Are matters of sin and error in Romans 14?

Look at the wording of Romans 14 and ask yourself, are matters of sin and error "received" by God (v. 3), "made to stand" (v. 4), done "unto the Lord" (v. 6), done while giving "God thanks" (v. 6), not "unclean in itself" (v. 14), "good" (v. 16), done as one "serves Christ" (v. 18), "well-pleasing to God" (v. 18), pursuing "peace" and to "edify one another" (v. 19),

### Paul's Application Then

- Scruples or opinions (v. 1)
- God received (v. 3)
- Make him stand (v. 4)
- Unto the Lord (v. 14)
- Nothing unclean (v. 14)
- Good (v. 16)
- All is clean (v. 20)

"clean" (v. 20), and done "before God" (v. 22)? Of course not.

Those who place matters of sin and error within the scope of Romans 14 do so to broaden fellowship. They want to "agree to disagree" with those who maintain a continual practice with sin and error. For example, a Christian will tell a person in a denomination that his conversion is ok, or his denominational practices are ok, because Romans 14 allows us to have fellowship with a person like that.

The problem with this line of thinking is that it runs contrary to what Paul did in Acts 15:1-6 and what Paul wrote in such passages as 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 6:9-10; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 16:17-18; Titus

### False Applications Today

- Unscriptural practices
- Unity in diversity
- Instrumental music
- Institutionalism
- Adultery
- Homosexuality
- Misc. doctrinal errors

3:10; etc. The same Paul who wrote Romans 14 also wrote not to have fellowship with sin and error. Obviously, Paul is not writing about fellowship with sin and error in Romans 14.

Paul even made a distinction within the same book concerning how matters of opinion and matters of sin and error are to be handled. Paul wrote about matters of sin in 1 Corinthians 5 and matters of opinion in 8 and 10. Paul wrote matters of sin in Romans 13 and matters of opinion in 14.

### Romans 14 Used Properly

In matters of personal "faith" (scruple / opinion) we all need to prac-