



# Peace and Joy

When Confident, Confused Christians Clash

## Befriend, don't condemn

**Romans 14:1** Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

<sup>2</sup> One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

<sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

## Keep your convictions; don't go liberal

<sup>5</sup> One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

## Keep it all about Jesus

<sup>6</sup> He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

<sup>8</sup> for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

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

## Remember, we'll have some explaining to do

<sup>10</sup> But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup> So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

## Edify, don't e\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

<sup>14</sup> I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

<sup>15</sup> For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

<sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

<sup>19</sup> So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

<sup>20</sup> Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

<sup>21</sup> It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles.

<sup>22</sup> The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

<sup>23</sup> But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

## Carry the weak to w\_\_\_\_\_

**15:1** Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

<sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

<sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus;

<sup>6</sup> that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

... <sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

<sup>2</sup> If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

<sup>3</sup> but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

<sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords,

<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

<sup>7</sup> However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

<sup>8</sup> But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

<sup>9</sup> But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

<sup>10</sup> For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

<sup>11</sup> For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

<sup>12</sup> And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

**1 Corinthians 10:19** What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

<sup>20</sup> *No*, but *I say* that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

<sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

<sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? *We* are not stronger than He, are we?

<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

<sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own *good*, but that of his neighbor.

<sup>25</sup> Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience ' sake;

<sup>26</sup> for the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains.

<sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience ' sake.

<sup>28</sup> But if anyone should say to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it*, for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience ' sake;

<sup>29</sup> I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's*; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

<sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

<sup>32</sup> Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

<sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved.

**11:1** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.