



## Romans 14:1-23 | Week 16 | 5/18/2014

1. Have you ever been in a church or community group where there were distinct differences of opinions about a certain subject? What was it and how was it resolved?
2. Reading through Romans 14:1-23, who does Paul consider weak in faith and who does he consider strong in faith? What is his reasoning?
3. What attitude are the two groups supposed to have for one another?
4. How is Paul attempting to breakdown barriers in verses 1-6?
5. What are some implications of verses 7-9 on the way we engage in conflict over opinions?
6. Where are we prone to build walls of division on cultural or ethnic lines where Paul would gently, but firmly, insist that we are all serving the same master?
7. How can believers know on which issues we can live with differences of opinion and which we cannot?
8. Paul says that no food or drink is unclean in itself, but how does he say something can become "unclean" in verses 13-23?
9. In what specific ways does the church today reverse verse 17 and make God's kingdom about "food and drink" rather than about justice, peace and joy?
10. What would help us to turn our minds to justice, peace and joy?
11. According to Romans 15:3, 7; what Kind of Lord is Jesus?
12. When others are more strict with their opinions about how people should live, the popular culture tends to say "loosen up" or, "be more tolerant." However, the doctrine of being more tolerant can just feed greater intolerance. How is Paul's instruction in Romans 15:1-3 to the strong Christians (Who are right!) different from conventional worldly wisdom? Is this advise counterintuitive to you?
13. How does verse 7 of Chapter 15 help us to love and accept others?
14. Pray.