

Faith, Fellowship and Flexibility

Romans 14: "What Does the Scripture Say?"

Introduction:

- A. In discussions of faith, fellowship and flexibility, *Romans 14* is a frequent discussion destination.
- B. What's the context of *Romans 14* and what will fit within its God-breathed boundaries?

I. *Romans 14: What's the Context?*

- A. "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions" (14:1).
- B. A contrast is immediately seen between *Romans 14:1* and passages like *2 John 9-11*.
 - 1. In *2 John*, the difference under consideration? The _____ of Christ (9).
 - 2. In *Romans 14*, the difference under consideration? The _____ of men (14:1).
- C. The ink of Paul's pen wasn't dry from *Romans 13:12-14* when he wrote *Romans 14:1*.
- D. The same apostle in the same letter was used by the same God to make the appeal of 16:17-20.
- E. Paul repeatedly wrote that some are not to be "welcomed" (*Eph 5:11; Titus 3:10-11; Gal 2:4-5*).
- F. *Romans 14* does not say one word in defense of the person living in violation of God's law.

II. *Romans 14: What Will Fit Within Its God-Breathed Boundaries?*

- A. "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions" (14:1).
 - 1. "Opinions"—areas in which God neither _____ nor _____ a practice.
 - 2. Result? Two differing practices can be right given the fact that God _____ both practices.
 - a. "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables."
 - b. The basis for receiving a brother with a differing practice? "God has welcomed him."
 - B. The practice of esteeming days is of the same nature as the eating of meat (14:5-6).
 - C. In matters of opinion, stop passing judgment on your brethren! Judgment is coming (14:7-12).

D. In matters of opinion, brethren must carefully avoid placing stumbling blocks (14:13-23).