

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, October 7th, 2025. **Topic: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS 14**

**LIVING IN UNITY THROUGH CHRISTIAN LIBERTY**

**Introduction**

Caveat: Apostle Paul was obviously not talking about non believers, neither was he referring to people living in sin. So, you cannot say Apostle Paul says no one should judge you when you are outrightly living in sin or you are not a believer.

Christians are at different levels of spiritual maturity and come from diverse cultural, social, and academic backgrounds. We must therefore learn to accept other Christians especially if what could lead to division amongst us are not central to the faith. The issues that Apostle Paul is focused on here are issues of personal preferences and opinions rather than real doctrinal principles. Do not struggle to change the views and opinions of other believers by quarrelling with them. The Apostle uses two things as reasons for disagreement in this passage, and they are food and days of the week. These issues are more rooted in Jewish tradition than Christian beliefs. However, what the Apostle is advising in this passage takes discipline and maturity to manage. These “doubtful things” often stem from personal convictions rather than doctrinal truths. Paul uses food and sacred days as examples of how such differences can cause unnecessary division.

**Outline/ Discussion**

**1. Understanding “Doubtful Things”** *1 Corinthians 8:8–9, Colossians 2:16–17*

*Romans 14:2–6*

* Who are the weak ones and why are they referred to as weak?
	+ Why do these issues cause tension among believers?
* What are the “doubtful things” Paul mentions?
* How should we respond when someone’s conviction differs from ours?

**2. Jewish Traditions and Christian Freedom.** *Galatians 4:9–11, Mark 7:15*

*Romans 14:5–6*

* Why were food and days so important to the Jews?
* Were Jewish Christians struggling to let go of old customs?
* How can tradition become a stumbling block in the church today?

**3. Modern-Day “Doubtful Things”** *1 Corinthians 10:23, James 4:11–12*

*Romans 14:1*

* What are some modern examples of “doubtful things”?
* How do these issues affect unity in the church?
* How can we discern between personal conviction and biblical command?

**4. Living by the Spirit, Not by Rules.** *Galatians 5:13–15, Ephesians 4:2–3*

*Romans 8:4, 6–21*

* Why should we not be bothered by personal differences? Verse 17 **the Kingdom of God not as "eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"**
* How does walking in the Spirit help us navigate these issues?
* What does it mean to “pursue what makes for peace” (Rom 14:19)?

**5. “Nothing is Unclean of Itself”** *Titus 1:15, 1 Corinthians 10:31*

*Romans 14:14*

* What does Paul mean by “nothing is unclean of itself”?
* How can this principle guide us in dealing with cultural or lifestyle differences?
* When should we abstain from something for the sake of others?

**Conclusion**

Romans 14 is a call to spiritual maturity, humility, and love. It teaches us to prioritize unity over uniformity and to extend grace in areas of personal conviction. The goal is not to win arguments but to build each other up in Christ.