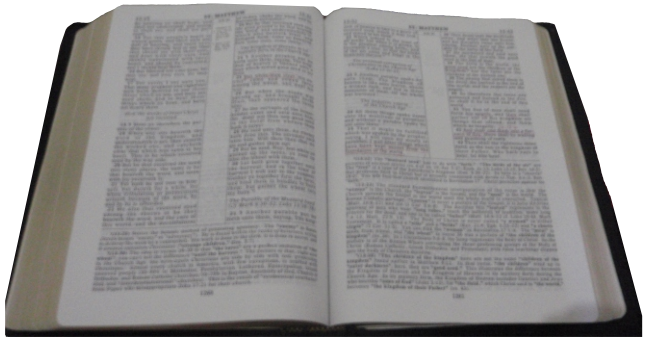
Flooding the World with the Gospel

ArkWork Publications



King James 1611

A Bible Believers Commentary on

Romans
14

Comparing spiritual things with spiritual

The entrance of thy words giveth light
Ps. 119:130

arkworkpublications.com

Romans 14- The Believer's Relationship to other Believers

This chapter deals with a believer's relationship with other (weak) believers on an individual basis,

On how to interact with believers who see things differently than you do.

The context is still to get Gentile believers to live and behave properly so as to provoke the Jews to jealousy that they might understand that Jesus is the Messiah and get saved.

14:1- Weak in the faith

- How to deal with a person who is weak in the faith.

- First we must receive and have fellowship with him and welcome him as we would anybody who is not weak in the faith.

- One clear characteristic of people who are weak in the faith (babies) spend all their time talking about themselves and their own experiences in the faith. (use "I, my, me")

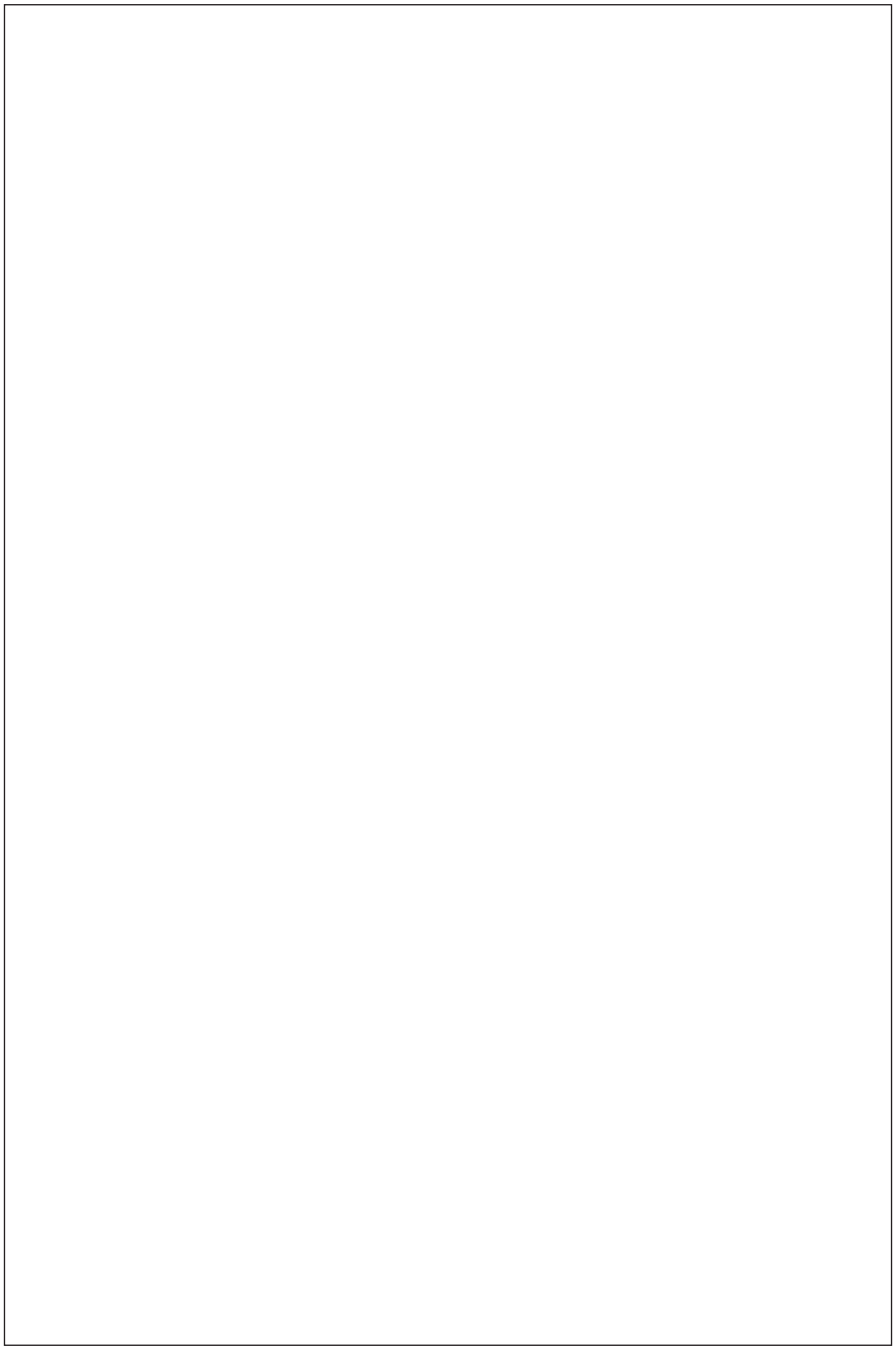
- Stick to basic doctrine and avoid getting into any arguments or issues that cannot be easily understood and proven from the scriptures.

- 2Tim. 2:23

- Tit. 3:4-11

- This is not to say that we should receive into our fellowship those who want to infiltrate our church for the purpose of spreading false doctrine.

- Rom. 16:17



- Spending time in the word of God will help a believer grow strong in the faith.

- Jh. 3:30

- An Old Saying- Little men talk about people (primarily themselves), big men talk about things of this world (cars, sports, etc.), great men talk about ideas (how to fix this world), and spiritual men talk about God and what God said in His book.

14:2-3- What we eat is a personal conviction and does not affect our fellowship with the Lord.

14:2-Eateth herbs

- The Bible says the believer that only eateth herbs is weak in the flesh

14:3- For God hath received him

- God has received all believers based on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not based on the foods we eat.

- Mt. 15:16-20

- Whether you are a meat eater or a vegetarian, we are not to despise, judge, ridicule or insist another believer must follow our conviction.

- 1Cor. 10:29

- 4 Rules for food

1- If you have faith to eat something, then eat it; if you don't have faith for it, don't eat it.

2- If you can thank God for it with a clear conscience, then eat it; if you can't then don't.

3- Don't force your convictions for what should be eaten on others.

- Gal. 5:13

4- Don't cause others to stumble with your liberty.

- 1Cor. 8:4-13, 10:23

- Rom. 14:21

14:4- Believers are not to appoint themselves as the judge

- Jam. 4:11-12

- Believers, individually, are accountable to God for the specific calling God has given them.

- God guides, provides, and enables through His power what He wants us to accomplish.

- God promises the believer (in God's will) that he can stand against any enemy.

- Eph. 6:13

14:5- Another personal conviction– Esteeming one holy day above another.

- Notice first that every man should be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- Which means personal convictions can be different for each of us.

- While there is no direct commandment that believers must worship on the first day of the week, here is the reason why

4- **Ja. 4:17-** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

5- **1Jh. 3:4-** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

6- **1Jh. 5:17a**- All unrighteousness is sin.

2- Believer's premature death

- Ecc. 7:17

- Rom. 8:6, 13

- 1Cor. 5:1-5

3- Believers self-condemnation (By what he allows in his life)

- Rom. 14:22-23

- 1Cor. 11:28-34

- A believer's condemnation due to carnality affects the believer's life and testimony right now.

- It also later when the believer suffers loss of reward at the judgment seat of Christ.

14:22- Happy- blessed, fortunate

- Happy is the believer that does not bring on himself condemnation by what he eats or allows to go on in his life.

14:23b- Sin defined

- Just exactly what does the KJB say is sin

- It is used 6 times in the KJB, the number of a man

1- **Rom. 14:23b-** For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

2- **Pr. 21:4-** An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked is sin.

3- **Pr. 24:9a-** the thought of foolishness is sin.

- Believers today set aside the first day of the week as a holy day of worship.

1- It is the day of Jesus' resurrection

- Mk. 16:9

2- It is the day the early church met to worship, fellowship, and hear preaching.

- Acts 20:7

3- It is the day for collections of tithes and offerings

- 1Cor. 16:1-2

- Lost people and backslidden believers are watching believers and **expect us** to faithfully attend church

- Heb. 10:24-25

- Believers are supposed to stay continually sensitive to the will of God and keep our consciences clear.

- Believers should do what we know to be right.

14:6- We are to honor God in the days that we observe as holy and what we eat.

- Believers sometimes must worship on different days (in other countries, perhaps), but it is honorable to God to worship Him no matter what day it is, even Everyday.

- Believers are not to look down on others when they don't regard the same day that we do.

- This is not to say that we condone or have fellowship with those who promote false doctrine.

- Rom. 16:17

- God receives and accepts thanks from Both the vegetarian (even though he is weaker in the faith) as well as from the one who eats beef, shrimp, or catfish.

- Rom. 14:1-2

14:7- Our lives are not our own regarding others.

- No man is an island unto himself- John Dunn

- Your life will influence the lives of others, for better or for worse.

- Ask yourself these 5 questions to determine if you are doing the right thing.

1- Does it please God?

2- Would I like the Lord to find me doing it when He returns?

3- Can I in good conscience ask God's blessing on it?

4- Would it cause a weaker Christian to stumble?

5- Would it cause a lost person to reject the Gospel.

- Our lives will also influence future generations after we die.

- The phrase "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation" is found 3 times in the KJB

- Ex. 20:5

- Num. 14:18

- Deut. 5:9

- Already covered in **14:13-15**

- Believers should be willing to set aside our liberties if they would cause another brother to stumble or fall into sin.

- 1Cor. 8:7-13

- We sin against Christ when we cause others to stumble or weaken their faith.

- We need to abstain from alcoholic drinks of any kind as it weakens our testimony and will cause another brother to stumble.

14:22-23a- This "faith" is the faith of a believer to do certain things, context is still **Food**

- For example, to eat all meats rather than just herbs vegetables.

- Don't use your faith (and the liberty it gives you) to cause your brother to sin.

- If you cause your brother to sin, you bring damnation (temporary condemnation) upon yourself.

- The believer's condemnation we studied in **Rom. 8:1**

- 3 examples of temporary condemnation that comes upon carnal believers

- 1Cor. 3:1-4

1- Believers Chastisement

- Ps. 89:30-32

- Heb. 12:6

- Rom. 15:1

- 1Cor. 10:24, 31-33

- Eph. 4:1-3

- Believers are to build up fellow believers in the faith, but without compromising doctrine.

- Word study of “edify” (handout)

14:20- Believers are not to destroy the work of God by what we eat or things of no importance.

- Believers are not to let minor issues destroy the work of God

- God said “All things indeed are pure” the context here is food.

- God cleansed all food in **Acts 10** with Peter’s vision of the sheet with all manner of beast, fowls, creeping things that descended from heaven down to the earth.

- A person must not violate his conscience or else it is evil and sin to him.

- Acts 23:1

- Good Bible study habits and prayer will develop a good conscience in the believer.

- The 1st use of “conscience” (con= with, science= knowledge) in KJB is found in **Jh. 8:9-** It should bring conviction.

14:21- Believer should never eat, drink, or do anything that will cause a weaker brother to stumble or be offended.

- What kind of legacy will we leave our families?

14:8a- Our lives are not our own regarding God.

- 1Cor. 6:19-20

- Believers are commanded to walk so as to please God.

- 1Th. 2:4, 4:1-12

- Col. 3:20

- Walking so as to please God directly affects getting our prayers answered.

- 1Jh. 3:22

14:8b-9- The best news ever is that believers belong to the Lord both now and forever!

- Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection was accomplished so that believers can have the Lord both now and at our physical death.

- Nothing can separate the believer from God and his love.

- Rom. 8:35-39

- Ps. 116:15

- Pr. 12:28

- Eternal life for the believer today is a present possession

- The death of a believer’s physical body is only a change in residence.

- 2Cor. 5:1-8

- Eph. 2:5-6

14:10- Why are believers so quick to judge other believers?

- Most of the modern perverted Bibles change this verse to read “the judgment seat of God”

- There is no such thing as the judgment seat of God.

- They do this to confuse the person into thinking the Judgment seat of Christ is the Great White Throne Judgment.

- Rev. 20:11-15

- This change leads to the belief in only one general judgment with no accountability for how believers have lived their Christian lives.

- Notice the reference to a **“judgment seat”** in **14:10** is not a **“throne”** as in **Rev. 20:11**

- The context still is personal convictions, so believers are not to judge another person’s salvation based on his personal convictions.

- Being a vegetarian or “keeping the Sabbath” on Saturday are not signs the person is lost.

- Here we have the first (of two) mention in the Bible of “the judgment seat of Christ”

- It is a judgment (accountability) **for Christians only** and will be based on each believer’s works after salvation

- It has nothing to do with judging whether or not a person enters Heaven.

- The Kingdom of God described here is an invisible spiritual kingdom which was preached in the early church.

- Lk. 17:20-21

- Acts 8:12, 20:25, 28:23,31

- Men get into the Kingdom of God by being born again.

- Jh. 3:3-5

- The Kingdom of God has spiritual qualities found in the Holy Ghost.

- Inner righteousness, inner peace, and inner joy

- Gal. 5:22-23

- Eph. 5:8-11

14:18- The result of serving Christ in righteousness, peace and joy.

- We are accepted by God as a good servant and approved by men.

- 2Cor. 5:9

- Men may slander you, but they will respect you if you genuinely serve God and they will also envy you because you have something they wish they had.

- Believers ought to serve God, do right, no matter what.

14:19- Believer’s should edify other believers; not focus on ourselves.

14:16- Guiding principle for all of this chapter 14

- Do what is right in such a way that others cannot say any thing bad about it.

- 1 Cor. 10:23-33

- While all spirit-filled believers shall be persecuted and spoken evil of, we must live so that the evil spoken of us is not justified or remotely true.

- 1Th. 5:12-15

- Pr. 16:7- When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

14:17- Here is a definition and description of the spiritual kingdom of God.

- 1Cor. 15:50

- It is not a physical kingdom of things we eat and put into our physical bodies.

- It is not the Kingdom of Heaven, which is the earthly, physical literal, Davidic kingdom that will be ruled by Jesus Christ when he returns at the 2nd Advent.

- Rev. 19:11-16

- It is not the political kingdoms of today which are ruled by Satan.

- Lk. 4:5-6

- 2Cor. 4:4

- The purpose of the judgment seat of Christ is rewards and suffering loss

- 1Cor. 3:11-15

- Some "bad" thing are going to happen at the judgment seat of Christ

- Burning heaps, broken hearts, and bloody hands

- 2Cor. 5:9-11

- If believers are not motivated to serve God by the judgment seat of Christ, they cannot be motivated by anything else that can be said.

14:11- Every knee shall bow and confess to God

- Isa. 45:23

- What will be confessed

- Ph. 2:10-11

- For the lost it is too late after they die,

-We need to be good witnesses while we and they still have time to get saved.

14:12- Every one of us will give an account of himself to God.

- This verse is one of the most important verses in the Bible,

- So memorize it!

- As believers, we are accountable to God and will answer for how we've lived our Christian lives and everything we do.

- What we say, where we go, what we think, how we raise our children, how we witness, how we study the Bible

- Our faithfulness, our prayer lives, our motivations, our relationships, our example, our responsibilities, our stewardship, how we manage our vocation, homes, finances, etc. – Everything

- Mt. 12:36

- Leaders and teachers have even more responsibility and accountability to God.

- Heb. 13:17

- It is not wise to be too overly ambitious in putting yourself in charge.

- Let God open the doors of service that He wants for you

- Then He will provide all that is needed to succeed.

- Jam. 3:1

- All freedoms opportunities, and privileges come with responsibility and accountability.

14:13- Believers are not to judge other believers on doubtful or unclear matters.

- Where the scriptures don't address or are unclear on some thing minor, don't judge other believers who disagree with us.

- (Already covered in **14:4, 10**)

- This is not to say that believers are not to make righteous judgments using the scriptures and the plain common sense and conscience that God has given us.

- Lev. 19:15

- Pr. 31:9

- Jh. 7:24

- 1Cor. 10:15; 11:13-16

- Believers should be willing to set aside our liberties if they would cause another brother to stumble or fall into sin.

- 1Cor. 8:7-13

14:14-15- All things that God made **"are pure" 14:20** and **"nothing unclean of itself"**

- This does **NOT** mean that everything has a pure use, tobacco, barley, corn, drugs, fruit juice, house, car radio waves, etc.

- It's when man corrupts God's pure things that they become sinful.

- Individual believers **must be fully persuaded in his own mind 14:5** as to whether something is clean or unclean

- This is no license for justifying things that are clearly sinful, based on us playing God.

- Believers must be careful not to destroy other believers' Christian walk or fellowship with the Lord by what we eat or other minor issues.

- Jer. 10:1-5