

## Romans 14 - cont.

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Romans 14 establishes “the right of brethren to differ in matters of faith” including matters related to M-D-R (*Christianity Magazine*, Ed Harrell, 1988-1989)

As you can see, people want to try and apply the “principle” of unity found in Romans 14 to all kinds of religious doctrines and practices. But this will not work. One takes Romans 14 out of context when he tries to apply this passage to all kinds of religious doctrines and practices and one is in violation of 2 John 9-11 when he does it.

Study the chart on the inside page carefully and notice the contrasts between what is taught in Romans 14 and what is taught in 2 John 9-11. Some brethren we “receive” and some brethren we do not. Some matters are allowed by God and some matters are not. Some people we can have fellowship with and some people we cannot. In some cases judging and condemning is wrong, and in other cases it is absolutely necessary.

Let us all be mature enough to know the difference between matters of opinion and matters of the faith.

( continued next week )

- Chris Reeves -

## - Thought of the Week -

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When I live during hard times, I can be tempted to be stingy rather than being generous. It is easy for me to hold back for myself in hard times, rather than give what I have to others. But, I want to be more like Nehemiah who was magnanimous toward his brethren in hard times (Nehemiah 5). I want to be more generous with my time, my talents, and my possessions. I want to have the virtue (magnanimity) that takes virtue to the next level. This week I will be more generous.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Romans 14: Used and Abused - Part 3

In my two previous articles on Romans 14, I answered the five important questions that Paul answers in Romans 14 about how brethren are to get along with each other in matters of person scruple or opinion. With this article, I want to begin to look at how Romans 14 has been abused by brethren and others.

There are some people, in and out of the Lord's church, who understand that Romans 14 is teaching the importance of unity, so they use this passage to teach that we can have unity even when we disagree over religious doctrines and practices. They will say that we can "agree to disagree" over matters concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage, baptism, instrumental music, homosexuality, etc.

However, these people are failing to understand at least two very important points. First, Romans 14 is not talking about such matters. And second, there are other scriptures like 2 John 9-11 that say that we cannot have fellowship with people who teach and practice things outside the NT teaching of Christ.

Here are few examples of how some people would abuse Romans 14:

### Romans 14

- "Receive..."
- Matters of opinion
- Not commanded
- Allowed by God
- Fellowship allowed
- Encouragement allowed
- No fellowship, condemned
- Judging is wrong
- Disputing is wrong
- Good

"In modern times controversy over meat sacrificed to idols is unknown, but the principle still applies to instrumental music, missionary societies, etc. Such matters of indifference are not to be ... set up as tests of fellowship. As to them there is to be neither contempt on the one part, nor judgment on the other" (*Commentary on Romans*, J.W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, pp. 525-526)

The differences concerning the work, worship, and organization of the local

### 2 John 9-11

- "Receive not..."
- Matters of doctrine
- Transgress doctrine
- Not allowed by God
- Fellowship is broken
- No encouragement given
- Fellowship is condemned
- Judging is necessary
- Disputing is essential
- Evil works

church are the same as those mentioned in Romans 14 (*Mission Messenger*, Carl Ketcherside, Jan. 1961)

Romans 14 can be used to accept homosexuality (*Time for Consent: A Christian's Approach to Homosexuality*, Norman Pittenger, 1970)

All differences "other than the central question of the Lordship of Christ" come within the scope of Romans 14 (*Commentary on Romans*, Earl F. Palmer)