

**Lesson 23**  
**The Weak and the Strong**  
**- continued -**  
**( Romans 14:13-23 )**

• **Questions**

1. According to verse 13, what is the strong brother not to do to the weak brother?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Where did Paul place himself, among the weak or the strong? What determines what is clean and unclean in this context (14:14)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to verse 15, what is the strong brother not to do to the weak brother?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What must the strong person be careful not to do (14:16)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does Paul say about the kingdom of God (14:17)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What makes the Christian well pleasing to God (14:18)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What are Christians to follow after (14:19)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. According to verses 20 and 21, what is the strong brother not to do to the weak brother?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is one to do with his personal scruple (14:22)?

10. What brings condemnation and sin in this context and why (14:23)?

• **Digging Deeper**

1. What does “faith” refer to in this context (14:1-2,22,23)?

2. What does “judge” refer to in this context (14:3,4,10,13,22)?

3. What does “good” refer to in this context (14:16)?

4. What does “work of God” refer to in this context (14:20)?

5. What does “evil” refer to in this context (14:16,20)?

6. What do these words mean: “whatever is not of faith is sin” (14:23)?

7. Where else in the NT does Paul discuss the matter of personal conscience and liberty?

8. What Bible matters are not under consideration in Romans 14?

9. What was the social makeup (Jew / Gentile) of church membership at Rome and how does this relate to what Paul discusses in Romans 14.

## • Applications for Today

1. In matters of personal scruple (matters of indifference where one may act or not act as he may choose)...

Let us all not judge (14:13), cause stumbling (14:13,21), grieve and destroy (14:15), or overthrow another (14:20)

But let us all walk in love (14:15), peace and edification (14:19).

2. Local churches do not have to divide and split just because every member does not see “eye-to-eye” on matters of judgment and opinion.
3. Let us not lose sight of the importance of the kingdom of God while exercising our personal scruples (14:17).
4. In matters of personal scruple, both weak and strong brethren face special temptations and challenges which could lead to sin if not handled properly (14:20,23).
5. One can sin by acting without being fully assured that what he is doing is right (14:23).
6. Make sure your conscience is “fully assured” (14:5) when you engage in some activity. Never violate your conscience (14:23). However, remember your conscience can be misguided (Acts 26:9-10; 23:1). Your conscience can be your guide so long as your conscience is guided by God’s word. Let your conscience be your “guide,” but not your “god.”