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Disputable Matters

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Romans 14:1-12 ¹Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on his opinions. ²For one person has faith to eat all things, while another, who is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The one who eats everything must not belittle the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted him. ⁴Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person regards a certain day above the others, while someone else considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who observes a special day does so to the Lord; he who eats does so to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹For this reason Christ died and returned to life, that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why, then, do you judge your brother? Or why do you belittle your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written: "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God." ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** We are to allow others to **disagree** with us. V. 1
- B.** Legalism is not a sign of **maturity**. V. 2
- C.** We must refuse to put down other believers for their **personal** stands unless it is clearly immoral. V. 3
- D.** We must trust God to correct others in areas of **opinion** on disputable matters. V. 4
- E.** We can apply these truths in the area of **sabbaths** as well. V. 5
- F.** We cannot judge a person's **heart**; we must trust Christ's lordship over them. V. 6-9
- G.** We are to answer for our **own** beliefs and actions to God. V. 10-12

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A.** Try to **repair** damaged or broken relationships with other believers. The limit of this would be if it means breaking what Scripture clearly says.
- B.** We must cultivate **humility** in ourselves. Think about all the times in your past when you held wrong beliefs. "We are all heretics at one time or another." Dr. Wes Gerig

- C. We must trust the Lordship of Christ over the **non-sinful** opinions of our fellow Christians.
- D. Be willing to look at your absolutely held moral stances and determine whether they are based upon **Scripture**, your opinions, or family upbringing.
- E. We must remember that we will give an **account** to God for our own choices and not for the choices of others.