


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>13a</sup> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. <sup>13b</sup> Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

**Galatians 4:12** [NIV-1984]

I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you...

**1 Corinthians 9:21-23** [NIV-1984]

<sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**Romans 2:12-13** [NIV-1984]

<sup>12</sup> All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

Q1. If we are to follow Paul's example... how did he minister to the new Believer?

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<sup>14</sup> As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.

Q2. Who might consider a food "unclean"?

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**Matthew 15:1-3, 15-20** [NIV-1984]

<sup>1</sup> Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ...

## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.' " ...

<sup>15</sup> Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

<sup>16</sup> "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup> "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander [or as translated in the KJV: "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"]. <sup>20</sup> These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.' "

Q3. (Matthew 15:19 ↑) Is it okay for Believers – a man and a woman who love each other – to “make love” even though they are not married?

Yes? } Why?  
No? }

Q4. (Matthew 15:19 ↑) Jesus includes “*evil thoughts*” in His list defining that which is “unclean”. How would you describe an “evil thought”? Examples?

“Evil thoughts”?

Examples?

<sup>15</sup> If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

Q5. Is “eating” an example, or the only way we could “destroy” a fellow Believer?

**Exodus 20:13** [NIV-1984]


You shall not murder. [A footnote to the ESV states: “The Hebrew word also covers causing human death through carelessness or negligence”.]

Q6. If it is not answered in the previous question, how could our actions destroy a fellow Believer?

## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

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### Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

**16** Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.

Q7. This verse sounds judgmental and contradictory to what Paul wrote in Verse 13a “*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.*” How do we reconcile the verses? [Look at verse 13b (↑) for help.]

Summary of Romans 14:16:

Summary of Romans 14:13a:

Thoughts?

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**17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup> because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

Q8. (Verse 18) What pleases God?

Q9. In verse 18 Paul writes “*approved by men*”. Why do I care what people think, so long as my deeds are “*pleasing to God*”?

**19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.


Q10. What is “edification”?

 Note: ed·i·fi·ca·tion: Intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement; enlightenment. [The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.]

## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

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### Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>20</sup> Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.

<sup>21</sup> It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

Q11. Does this mean we are supposed to live a lie by being someone we are not?

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#### **1 Corinthians 10:23-33** [NIV-1984]

<sup>23</sup> "Everything is permissible" — but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" — but not everything is constructive. <sup>24</sup> Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

<sup>25</sup> Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, <sup>26</sup> for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

<sup>27</sup> If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. <sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake — <sup>29</sup> the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?

<sup>30</sup> If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God — <sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

**Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13**

<sup>22</sup> So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

Q12. How are we to learn what God “approves”?

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Q13. How could we “condemn” ourselves?

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Q14. What are the “things” we are to keep between ourselves and God? Why not discuss it with others?

Examples?

Discuss?

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<sup>23</sup> But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Q15. How do we build-up our faith?

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Q16. Society seems to believe that morals change with time (moral relativism). Is this true? Upon what do you base your knowledge?

Is this true? Yes? No? Thoughts?

Knowledge basis?

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## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13


Q17. What is an important phrase or thought that you can take away from verse 23?

Phrase?

Why is it important to you?

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### Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### Romans 15

#### *The Example of Christ*

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

Q18. How would you contrast the “strong” versus the “weak”?

Strong?

Weak?

Summary of the contrast?

**Romans 15:1-2** [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase] [Sometimes another version will better clarify the meaning of a particular verse.]

<sup>1-2</sup> Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”

Q19. Would the “strong” person or the “weak” person be more likely to “not... please ourselves” and serve others?

Strong? Weak? Thoughts?

## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

<sup>2</sup> Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Q20. How do we as Believers in Christ Jesus build-up someone? Or “please [our] neighbor for his good”? (Hint: Through encouragement? Service?)

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<sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me [Psalm 69:9]."

Q21. Generally speaking, what did Jesus do when He walked in this world? (Did He come to overthrow the Roman government? Did He come to serve others? Did He ridicule the people to whom He ministered? Was He judgmental?)

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### **Matthew 20:25-28** [NIV-1984]

<sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Q22. (Verse 3) What does this mean, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me?"

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### **John 15:19-21** [NIV-1984]

<sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

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### Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Q23. Some Christians think that the only part of Scripture that is significant is the New Testament. Is that thinking aligned with Scripture, with the Words of Christ Jesus?

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Q24. (Verse 4) What does Paul say that all of Scripture provides us? And how?

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<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q25. Why do you go to church?

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### **1 Timothy 2:1-8** [NIV-1984]

<sup>1</sup> I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone — <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.


<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time. <sup>7</sup> And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle — I am telling the truth, I am not lying — and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup> I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.



## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

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### Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Q26. When we obey Jesus Christ, what is the outcome?

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Q27. How do you explain "accept one another"? Does that acceptance include accepting his/her sin?

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**John 13:20** [NIV-1984]

"I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs <sup>9</sup> so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." [2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49]

<sup>10</sup> Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." [Deuteronomy 32:43]

<sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." [Psalm 117:1] <sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

[Isaiah 11:10]

Q28. In verses 8-12, how do you know that Paul believes the Old Testament is important?

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## Lesson 23: Romans 14:13-23 & 15:1-13

Q29. Why is the Old Testament important to Paul? To Believers?

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Q30. To what people-group is Paul primarily ministering? Jews or Gentiles? Why the one and not both?

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Q31. (Verse 12) To whom does “the Root of Jesse” refer?

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**13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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