

# HOW TO DECIDE QUESTIONABLE THINGS ROMANS 14

Text: Romans 14:2-3

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For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. [3] Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Introduction:

Many have asked the question how can one determine whether something is right or wrong if the Bible has little or nothing to say about it? We must remember two things regarding the Bible.

First, it was written for all people of all ages; therefore, everything could not be spelled out in detail. Secondly, the Bible is a condensed Book.

Read John 21:25

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

God chose to reveal to Bible writers what He wanted men to know. The Bible is not a revelation of what God knows, but a revelation of what God wants men to know.

Since the Bible does not give detailed answers to every question the believer will face, then what does he do regarding things not spelled out in Scriptures?

Now while the Bible does not give all the specific details regarding what a Christian should and should not do, it does give guidelines by which every honest Christian can make the right decision regarding questionable things.

## **1. ARE YOU WILLING TO DO RIGHT ONCE YOU KNOW GOD'S WILL?**

John 7:17

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

- One cannot approach God with the attitude, Lord let me know whether this is right or wrong, and I will decide if I want to it or not. We must have the attitude, Lord I don't know whether this is right or wrong; but if you will let me know for sure, I will do right regardless of what others say or what my preferences are.

## **2. DOES IT AGREE WITH ALL THE SCRIPTURE HAS TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT?**

2 Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

- Scripture is not to be isolated and interrupted without considering all that the Bible has to say on the subject.
- A good rule to follow is: never use an obscure passage to contradict several clear passages.

## **3. HAVE YOU PRAYED ABOUT IT?**

- There is more you can do after you pray, but there is nothing more you can do until you pray.

Philip. 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Matthew 7:8

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

## **4. DO HAVE THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Acts 13:1-2

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. [2] As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- Here are cases where the Holy Spirit led men to a certain place to work.

Acts 16:6-8

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, [7] After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. [8] And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

- Here is an example where the Holy Spirit forbade men to go certain places.
- The Bible says of itself that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”
- Since all scripture is given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit would never contradict Himself in leading someone contrary to the Bible.

## **5. DOES IT PLEASE GOD?**

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

- When there is no commandment to obey, then the question is, “Does it please God?”

- The Christian should never do anything unless he is thoroughly convinced that it will please the Lord.

## **6. CAN I DO IT IN JESUS NAME?**

Col. 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- Notice carefully the words, “whatsoever ye do in word or deed.” That covers every word the believer will ever utter and anything the believer will ever do. And according to the verse we are to do it “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- When the believer is faced with a matter and can’t decide whether it is right or wrong, he should simply ask, “Can I do it in the name of the Lord Jesus?” If not, then it is wrong.

## **7. CAN I GIVE GOD THANKS FOR IT?**

Col. 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- Whatever the matter in question is, can you honestly thank God for it?
- If you cannot sincerely give thanks to God for the matter in question, then it is best not to do it.

## **8. DOES IT BRING GLORY TO GOD?**

1 Cor. 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- Does the thing that you have a question about bring honor to God? Does it glorify God? Does it give God a good name? If not, then it is wrong.

Psalm 23:3

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- We are Christians. We bear His name. Our lifestyle, language, attitudes, and manner of dress reflect His name. “He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Unless you are honestly convinced that the thing in question will bring glory to God, then don’t do it.

## 9. DOES IT OFFEND OTHER CHRISTIANS?

1 Cor. 8:13

Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

- It is clear from this passage that some weaker Christians though eating meats was wrong, though we read in 1 Timothy 4:3-5 that really eating meat is not wrong.

1 Tim. 4:3-5

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. [4] For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: [5] For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- Now when we speak of offending other Christians, we are not referring to just one single individual, for you could probably find some Christians who would be offended at almost anything you did. But if it offended several good and respected Christians, then I wouldn't do it even though I thought it was OK.



## **10. AM I FULLY PERSUADED THAT IT IS RIGHT?**

Romans 14:5

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

- The word persuaded in this verse simply means convinced. In other words, if you are not thoroughly convinced that the thing in question is right, then it is best not to do it.

Romans 14:23

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Col. 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- The word prevail means to rule or to govern. In other words we must have faith that God will give us peace about the matter, and without it, don't do it.

- When a believer is faced with a decision regarding a questionable matter, he should never precede unless he has complete peace about it. If there is nothing wrong with it, then God is able to give complete peace.
- Never proceed until you are fully persuaded it is all right to proceed.