

## Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 33

**“9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God:” (Matthew 5:9 KJV)**

Let us continue to study the Scriptures to discover more clearly what Jesus meant with the peacemakers and how He wants us to live our lives for Him:

**“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Romans 14:19 KJV)** Let us read the whole chapter that this verse was placed so we can understand the situation of how to follow things that will lead and makes peace: **“1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 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.4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:1-23 KJV)**

It is good to go through **Romans 14** and explain it so you will be aware for what it was written, so it will not be interpreted wrong and used for wrong application:

**“1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.” (Romans 14:1 KJV)** Apostle Paul writing here to the Romans church that was composed of Jews and Gentiles; the Jews who had accepted Christ, still in their life and practice were observing the ceremonial Law of Moses about days and food. Some of the converted Jewish were still in their mind to follow certain type of food and observe certain days as what is written in the Old Testament, but the rest of the Jewish converts had started to put aside such things. While Gentiles members of the church they did not observe such, and they used their Christian liberty to consider all days alike and did not observe certain food. This situation had caused certain struggle and argument inside the church because of this discrepancy in belief. Those who were still following the Old Testament were belittled by those who were practicing their freedom in Christ and their liberty in eating food, as well as some of those who are still following the ritual of the Old Testament teaching about food and certain days were judging those who are not following. This occasioned great animosities and contentions among them; and some on account of these things were called strong, and others weak: and the chief view of the apostle in this chapter, is to give advice to each party how to behave one towards another; how the strong should behave toward the weak, and the weak toward the strong: and he begins with the strong, and in general exhorts them to be kind, tender, and affectionate in regard to their weaker brethren, and not to confuse their minds with disputations and arguments about things of little profit. He told them also that such reactions to such variances will disturb the peace among you and will create troubles. Being peacemakers you should avoid such disputations and arguments because such will not lead to anything good.

These variances are within the Scriptural limits and should not lead us to contentions and arguments which make us forgot the most important things and overlooked serious sins of immoralities, and the various form of idol worships and the unlawful marriages and the homosexuality and the transgender that the churches today started to adopt them.

In the book of **Leviticus 11** the whole chapter speaks about what clean animals that they can eat and the unclean animals that they cannot eat. So the Brethren of the Jewish convert were following the Word of God in the Old Testament and they were not fully updated and oriented or convinced with the teaching of Jesus about food in the New Testament. Paul was supportive to them, that their faith in such matter is still acceptable to God and patience needed to be practiced toward them from the Gentles members of the church.

In the book of **Leviticus 23** and **Deuteronomy 16** both chapters speak about the days and the feast that the Israelites need to observe. These feasts are:

1. The Sabbath Day (Saturday now), that you need to work and finish your work in six days and to rest on the seventh day, the Sabbath. This is the command of God that you need to observe.
2. The Feast of the Passover (they were observing in the month of March or April).
3. The Feast of the Weeks (the Pentecost in the month of May), seven weeks after the Passover feast.
4. The feast of the Tabernacles (they were observing in the month of October).

So the Brethren of the Jewish convert were following the Word of God in the Old Testament and they were still some of them celebrating these feasts and observing these days. Even Apostles Paul being a Jewish was still observing the Feast of Pentecost, as we read here: ***“8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.” (1 Corinthians 16:8-9 KJV)***

***Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations:*** Paul here is speaking to those who are strong in faith, who are eating everything and who are not observing certain days but considering them the same. He was telling them to receive those who still do that as brothers, and not to go into disputation with them because that will be of doubtful outcome. That will be waste of time and relationships and caused them to be under tension and pain and without a progress and will lead to troubles and no peace inside the church members. Therefore as peacemakers we need to avoid getting involved and trapped with such arguments.

Apostle Peter for a considerable period of time even up to the Book of *Acts 10* was still following the ceremonial law about food, for he was refusing to eat certain meat as we can read here: ***“10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.” (Acts 10:10-15 KJV)*** Here God spoke to Peter that he can eat other kinds of food because they are clean.

Now, the Jewish convert in Romans where in the same stage of Peter and observing the same in avoiding the meat of certain animals. So Paul is telling the strong that the weak in faith are still observing certain days. They may need certain time to pass on them until they will accept that there is no difference, or the Lord may speak to them so they can be similar to you, but even if God will not speak to them then you still need to accept them, and what they believe is acceptable to God who had called them as He had called you.

Paul was still observing certain laws of the ceremonial cleaning as we read here: ***“And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.” (Acts 18:18 KJV)*** Paul had a vow of a Nazarite, to separate himself unto the LORD: to keep his hair long and to abstain from eating the fruit of the vines as we read in *Numbers 6*. He was observing that based on God's instruction in the Old Testament. Such practice as we are aware is not necessary now. Of course we need to commit ourselves and promise God to obey His will, and followed him, and to separate ourselves from the world and its sinful inclination, but we don't need to keep our hair long.

Now certain believers they observe the Sabbath, it is correct. But certain others they observe one day other than the Sabbath for rest, and that is also correct. Some observe Sunday the Day of the resurrection of our Lord and that is also correct. We cannot condemn those who observe the Sabbath, because they are correct. Also those who observe the Sabbath cannot condemn those who observe other days in the week, as long as they are observing that for the Lord working for six days and taking rest on the seventh day. Why we cannot keep the Sabbath or any other day in particular? Now since all the believers in Christ are living under governments who are non believers and they may not observe the Sabbath as their holiday, so we all, will not be able to have a Sabbath as our Holy Sabbath day. The Lord also gave the command to keep the Sabbath to Moses to be observed after the Israelites were freed from the bondage of the slavery of the Egyptians and were free to govern themselves under God. *Therefore, in the same way at this time we cannot afford all of us to have the same day in a week to celebrate our Sabbath day. But, the most important is to keep one day in a week to be kept apart for the Lord.*

Some churches are observing the celebration of Pentecost, the day that the Holy Spirit fall on the church, as in the books of Acts, ***“1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 KJV)*** Usually it take place in the month of May. The Church of God commemorates this day and celebrates this feast in a simple way than what is written, and uses it as day of Evangelism. It is correct because it is written in the Bible. *But if we don't observe it is also correct, because we are called to be filled and refilled with the Holy Ghost and to speak the Word of God and evangelize on every day of our life on earth while we are waiting for the coming of our Lord.*

Certain churches they observe the feast of the Tabernacles and celebrate this feast in a simpler way than what is written, it is correct because it written in the Bible and Jesus celebrate it, but we don't celebrate it because we cannot follow what is written that we need to keep one whole week, most of us are working and we are under a government that their rules are different than our rules and we cannot afford one week and to move to gather in one place, in Jerusalem, as in the other feasts of the Old Testament. *So if we celebrate it or not both options are correct. Correct to celebrate it because it is written in the Bible, correct also not to celebrate it because it is not feasible at this time to follow what is written of how to celebrate it. As well as the Gentiles churches were not recommended by the apostles to follow these feasts.*

The other things about these feasts and days, the Lord had allowed the Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed and not to be rebuilt, where all these feasts were taken place, and to scatter the body of the Levitical priests to remove the ceremonial law from effect and practice where the burnt offerings and other sacrifices and these feasts were practiced.

But when the Lord will come back in His millennium reign and we will rule with Him over the earth for 1000 years, in one place in Jerusalem, we will celebrate the feast of the

Tabernacle because it is possible, as well as the Lord shall punish those who are not willing to come and attend these feasts: *“16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”* (Zechariah 14:16-19 KJV)

About the Passover, Jesus is our Passover Lamb, *“For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”* (1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV) and instead of the feast of the Passover, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, *“19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”* (Luke 22:19-20 KJV) *That is why we prepare ourselves and celebrates the Lord’s Supper, including everyone who committed himself/herself to follow Christ and His Word. We observe the Lord’s Supper with the washing of the feet with those who are committed to follow Christ based on the Criteria of the approved worker.*

Now some people use **Romans 14** to justify accepting the worldly celebration like Christmas, New Year, Chinese year, Mother Day, Father Day, Woman Day. Birth Days, Valentine Day or other days and to be incorporated into the church worship and celebration, and they bring this Scripture of **Romans 14**:

*“2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.”* (Romans 14:2 KJV) *We can eat all things according to the Word of Jesus that all food is clean.* *“There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.”* (Mark 7:15 KJV) *but that does not include blood, for we cannot take blood because it is prohibited in the Bible,* in the Old Testament, *“For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.”* (Leviticus 17:14 KJV) As well as in the New Testament, *“That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”* (Acts 15:29 KJV)

Some people they eat everything and all meat, the other people they eat herb because according to the Law of Moses there is no restriction about herbs, so freely they can eat them without making any sort of offend against God. Herb also can be eaten to observe certain kind of fasting as Daniel fasted, *“1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.*

*3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.”* (Daniel 10:1-3 KJV) Daniel and his friends decided to eat vegetable and pulses and to avoid all kinds of meat to be hundred percent sure that they will not be eating unclean meat. Catholics on their fasting they eat herbs and abstain from meat, they follow the same of Daniel, to abstain from a delicious food. That is acceptable if they are cleansed from idols worships, saints worship and they would changed their stand that they are saved by grace alone and not by the good charitable work that they are doing. *The main difference between Catholic and Protestant faith is not because of idol worship and worshipping saints or worshipping Mary, but because they believe that their salvation is based on grace and good work, while the Bible states that we are saved by grace, and not by work so that no one will boast.* *“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV) After we are saved, we are called to do the good work that God had ordained for us to do, *“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10 KJV) But we are not saved by such but by the grace of God alone.

*“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.”* (Romans 14:3 KJV) Apostle Paul was telling that those who has faith and eat all kinds of food, they should not despise and scorn those who are not eating. In the same way those who are of weak faith should not judge those who are of strong faith and who are eating everything. Why? *“For God hath received him.”* (Romans 14:3 KJV) *God had received that person, whether weak or strong, then you should also accept that person. Therefore, the strong should not despise the weak, nor the weak should judge the strong.*

*“4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”* (Romans 14:4 KJV) Now those who were of weak faith in the Romans church who were eating herbs to avoid eating unclean food and unclean meat in particular, because the meat can be of unclean animal, and that is not acceptable to God, those brethren, should not be judged by others who eat everything, because those people are obedient to God and to His Word, they are God’s servant, and the others has no right to judge them because they are doing the correct thing. Now what is left for them to be judged for is their motive behind eating herbs, and that we cannot judge, because we don’t know what is inside their heart, as Paul said here to them who are strong: *Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth.* If suppose their motive is wrong, then you cannot judge that, but need to leave it to God, who is able to correct them and make them stand: *“Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”* Why Paul said, *“Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”* Because Paul was not seeing that they were doing anything wrong in pertain to the food that they were eating.

*But that does not include accepting food and eating food that had been sacrificed for idols. For example now here in the New Testament accepting food that offered to idols, and food that offered from the religious feasts of whatever religion, food offered for*



birthday parties, and food offered for girls to entice them, we should not accept such as food ordained from God to us to eat.

**“5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” (Romans 14:5 KJV)** This is apply to what we had explained earlier. Now some people use this chapter of **Romans 14** to justify and to accept the worldly celebration like Birthdays, Mother Day, Father Day, Woman Day, Valentine Day or other days to be incorporated in the church worship and celebration, as Christmas, New Year celebrations, Halloween, etc., and they bring this verse, that one man esteem one day above another. That is not about esteeming days in the world. This Scripture is written to support the newly converted Jewish who follows the Scriptures in the Old Testament and not for other application.

The use of **Romans 14** to justify the including of worldly celebration in the life of the church is not acceptable. This is an important note here, to condemn all these worldly practices and celebration. Why we need to stress on that? Let us explain that in pertain to the Pandemics of COVID 19. When the Pandemic of COVID 19 came, the Word of God spread more, people, had more time to read the Bible, but with COVID 19 and the lockdown that goes along had caused the cease of all these worldly celebrations from the life of the churches. Now with this explanation then COVID 19 is allowed by God who caused His Word to be more preached and who cease these activities and celebrations of worldly origin from His churches. These celebrations caused God to get jealous, it wastes time and resources and bring the people into idol worship and worthless practices. Now, while COVID 19 is spreading these celebrations had altogether ceased. Now they exist only in the social media and in the peoples' hearts. Now if we really want God to restore us back and our churches to the freedom that we have previous to COVID 19, then the people of God needs to remove all these idols from their hearts and make clear commitment to God not to celebrate these events at all again.

**“6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.” (Romans 14:6 KJV)** What Apostle Paul explaining here is that those who observe the days and the kind of food based on the Old Testament teaching they are observing them for the Lord who said that in His Word. As well as those who are not observing these days and such kinds of food because they understand and accept the liberty that Christ gave them, they are also doing that for the Lord.

Now this does not include those who are observing the worldly festivals and worldly days, and birthdays when they will say we are doing that for the Lord; because there are no instructions in the Word of God to high esteem worldly things and not to deny ourselves. **“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15-17 KJV)** **“24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross,**

and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24 KJV) If they are not willing to deny their own birthday celebration I don't know how they can deny themselves for Christ.

**“7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.” (Romans 14:7-8 KJV)** As long as we are living or dying for the Lord and not for ourselves, and as long as we live based on what we read in the Scripture and obey and apply, then we are honoring the Lord and doing what is right in His sight and working as peacemakers inside the body of Christ.

But to the contrary of that, if we are observing or non-observing food and days for our own sake then we are doing our own and we are trouble-makers.

**“9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.” (Romans 14:9 KJV)** Jesus in His life and in His death followed and applied the Scriptures in His life, followed and applied God's will, therefore, He became the captain of our salvation, and the Lord over both the dead and the living.

**“10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” (Romans 14:10 KJV)**

**But why dost thou judge thy brother?** This is directed to the weak brother who chooses not to eat certain food to avoid falling into sin. The weak now is judging the strong brother who is convinced that he can eat everything.

**Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?** This is directed toward the strong Brother who looks down to the weak brother.

**For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** Everyone of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ when He will come back and we need to give account and we will be judged whether we lived or died for Christ or for ourselves.

**“11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (Romans 14:11 KJV)** This is taken from a passage in Isaiah: **“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” (Isaiah 45:23 KJV)** That means, God will finally bring all His servants to be under subjection to Him and to His will. Even the judgment of Christ will be based according to what God said in His Word.

**“12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12 KJV)** God will finally judge what we are doing and observing of Scriptures whether we are doing it for Him or not. God also finally will judge what we are not observing whether for Him or for ourselves.

**“13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.” (Romans 14:13 KJV)** Therefore everyone of us after we expound much, let us judge one thing,

which is, to judge what we are doing whether is it becoming the stumbling block to others. For example when you, the strong, judge someone who is observing the feast of the Tabernacle because He wants to obey what is written in the Law of Moses, you might cause him to stumble. Or you, the weak, when you judge someone who does not want to celebrate the feast of the Tabernacle because he does not want to observe certain days because of the freedom that he received in Christ, then you are no more a peacemaker to him but a stumbling block, that through you he may get disturbed and got fall.

**“14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.” (Romans 14:14 KJV)** Here Apostle Paul is expressing himself as strong brother being convinced and persuaded by the Lord Jesus Himself, that there is no food unclean among the food as Jesus announced in the New Testament. **“11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. 16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.” (Matthew 15:11, 16-18 KJV)** If anyone consider any food unclean (apart of the food offered to idols and blood) that particular food is unclean for himself and not unclean for the Lord.

**“15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.” (Romans 14:15 KJV)** Here Apostle Paul is speaking to the strong brother, that if your freedom to eat any food is misinterpreted wrongly by the weak brother who is seeing you eating all kind of meat, he may stumble down because of what you are doing, and you will be in such a situation a stumbling block toward your brother that Jesus died for him and in such you are destroying his faith. We are called to walk in love and not to let our brethren stumble because of what they see in us. If someone is observing eating herbs we do not need to offend him and makes him grieve when we eat our food in a liberal way in front of him.

**“16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of.” (Romans 14:16 KJV)** Paul here is telling the strong that reproach may be brought upon them; when the weak react badly toward the freedom of the strong, in such a way the Gospel they professed, and the truth of Christian liberty that they used will be spoken as evil, as disharmony, or as division. This is directed to the strong Brother, that your strong faith that you can eat any food and you don't need to observe any day, which are correct, but if it will be misinterpreted, then the good you do, will be spoken as evil. Therefore we need to heed of how we need to behave tactfully in order to handle the situation, and take notice that what we did good will be spoken as evil.

**“17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17 KJV)** The Kingdom of God is not about food or certain days we observe, but it is about righteousness, to do what is right and just in each and every circumstance as we are living and interacting with the brethren with us. The Kingdom of God is about making peace, and when we as peacemakers keep the atmosphere of peace especially at these circumstances of Scriptural variances then joy

and peace will follow, as well as the presence of God, the Holy Ghost, will be in our lives.

**“18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.” (Romans 14:18 KJV)** When the strong will humble down and do that, then what they are doing are acceptable by Christ, and the weak brethren will approve it to them as something done correctly.

**“19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Romans 14:19 KJV)** Now here as peacemakers we need to observe all the above that we spoke so we can promote peace inside the body of Christ, and in such we are promoting things that is edifying one another when we are really speaking about sins and not about Scriptural variances.

**“20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.” (Romans 14:20 KJV)**

**For meat destroy not the work of God:** This is directed to the strong brother who is convinced that he can eat all things; that his stand shall not be manifested in a way causing others to fall, and destroy the work of God.

**All things indeed are pure:** This is directed to the strong that have pure consciences, sprinkled by the blood of Christ, to eat everything; this seems to be taken out of Titus, **“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.” (Titus 1:15 KJV)** Those who has pure mind they will not do anything intentionally to harm or hurt others.

**But it is evil for that man who eateth with offence:** Again directed to the strong Brother that if he will eat and bring harm to others then what he is doing is evil. **“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18:6 KJV)** **“31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:31-33 KJV)**

**“21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” (Romans 14:21 KJV)** So we need to be careful not to offend any brother around us especially the weak by whatever good we do or we live even the very things of the Lord. Let us pray: Lord gives us the grace to discern and to be sensitive to the needs of others and to avoid offending them, in Jesus name, Amen.

**My dear and beloved:** In conclusion let us brief what we learn to be peacemakers.

**“22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.” (Romans 14:22 KJV)** If you have strong

faith, have it for yourself, especially when other around you are not yet apt to the Scriptures that give us freedom. Even if what you are doing is right, but when it causes offences to the weaker brother, then you are condemning yourself of what you are approving in pertain to the topics that we are talking in discussing this chapter from the Bible and we need to act to be peacemakers and children of God. We are not to compete and brag with the faith we have, but rather of how we can humble ourselves and be of help to others and help them to grow in their faith.

***“23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14: 23 KJV) This is directed to the weak, if they are forced to eat without being convinced and without faith of what they are doing then they are condemning themselves. Therefore they need to avoid doing that to please others to stop their criticizing. Instead they need to take their time and to continue to do what they are convinced to do from the Scriptures.***

### **My prayer:**

*Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that made me understand your will and ways for me to be peacemakers and the way that you want me to live my life for you and the way to serve you to bring the peace of yours in the life of your church, and in the life of your people.*

*Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. Lord forgives me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Ask God forgiveness for your arrogance, pride, selfishness, carelessness, and being insensitive to other people's need.*

*Let us now take few moments to forgive those who might hurt us with their insensitive attitude, and let us forget all the grievances and criticism that came from them so we can be peacemakers for God.*

*Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in this message to be a real peacemakers. Lord give me discernment and discretion with humility to apply what we studied today in your Word to consider the weak brothers and not to hurt them. Lord I commit myself to help and support the weak brother and not to hurt their feelings and be courteous and patience toward them.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live as peacemakers and to apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message, Lord protect them, and provide for them all their needs. Lord comfort them and assure them that you are with them and leading them in their lives. Lord give them joy, comfort and peace. Lord visits them, lift them up, and uphold them with your grace as they are following you and living their lives for you.*

*Lord, I pray for us as a church to let your peace overwhelm us and fill our church. Lord do miracle, and bring the healing that we need in the midst of us. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord add to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with*

*the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.*

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