5.
Romans 14:1-12

Be Considerate

What are the things which cause a church to split? Rarely is it a matter of foundational doctrine. (This is one of the benefits of denominationalism where people can broadly associate with like-minded fellow believers.) More often than not it is over opinions. In fact, it’s not just churches where opinions divide people. Relationship counsellors tell us that the sharing of opinions is where the ‘first wall of conflict’ occurs in a friendship, a marriage, or a family.

1. Is Romans 14:1 primarily addressed to new Christians or mature Christians?

2. How might Romans 14:1 be a ‘key’ to a church’s growth?


4. How would you respond to a fellow believer who cited Romans 14:4 and verse 10 to you after you challenged them about their openly fornicating lifestyle?

5. Imagine your church experienced rapid and dramatic growth. Fortunately, your church owns a modest sized building - but, it soon becomes unable to accommodate the number of church attenders. There is no scope to extend the facilities. The church’s leadership decides to start multiple services, but despite adding a further 6 services to the Sunday schedule, the church still cannot accommodate all those who are now attending. A decision is made by
the church’s leadership to commence a Saturday night service, but one very passionate objector claims that Romans 14:5 forbids this. How might the church’s leadership respond to this?

While many people view Christianity as a merely religious preference or even identity, the apostle Paul taught that a believer’s commitment to Christ impacted how they treated food, their leisure, and their religious devotion.

6. In what way does Romans 14:6 mean that sincere believers will have to learn how to disagree?

7. Reading Romans 14:7-8, Paul seems to be saying that believers should live in a way to give God glory. But he also seems to have said that believers should die in a way that glorified God. In what way can a follower of Christ give God glory in the way they die?

8. In what way then did Christ glorify God in the way he died? How does this tell us how we can glorify God in our deaths (Note Romans 14:9)

No Judge And Jury Needed

9. What reasons does Paul give for not being condemning of another believer in Romans 14:10-12?

10. If the principles in Romans 14:1-12 were embraced within a local church how would this influence its culture?

Amen.