

ROMANS WEEK 6



ICE-BREAKER

Have you had a sharp difference of opinion with a fellow Christian over some issue? How did you resolve it?

OPENING PRAYER

Read Psalm 133 together. Then have a time of shared prayer praising and thanking God for the blessing and benefits of Christian fellowship.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Romans 14:1-3, 5, 10, 19.

REFLECTION

In Romans 14, Paul deals with handling differences of opinion between Christians. He mentions the eating of meat (vs 3) and the regarding of certain days being sacred and holy (vs 5). The issue with meat was that nearly all meat available at markets has been consecrated to pagan idols; a small portion eaten and the rest sold to the public. Christians really struggled with whether they should eat such meat or not. The same issue is dealt with in 1 Corinthians 8. This seems to be a general problem for Christians at the time rather than a specific problem in Rome that Paul was dealing with.

In Romans 15, Paul concludes the ethical section of the letter with a strong plea for unity; outlines the reason he wrote the letter and shares his future travel plans. In Romans 16, one is surprised to learn how many friends Paul in Rome Paul greets. Interesting is that a third of the names are of women, indicating the prominent place women held in the church in Rome. This together with his warning against false teachers provide insights into some features of the life of the early church.

1. What are some issues on which Christians today hold different view points?
2. Is there an issue on which you hold strong views?
3. Do you think these issues are peripheral to our faith or are they of crucial importance to the integrity of the witness of the modern church? What are the reasons for your view?