

### Preliminary Thoughts

14:1-4, Principle #1: Maintain \_\_\_\_\_ with those who \_\_\_\_\_ with you  
rather than be \_\_\_\_\_.

14:5-12, Principle #2: Believers must be \_\_\_\_\_ of their position  
in their own \_\_\_\_\_ as they live before the \_\_\_\_\_ because he is the one to  
whom they are \_\_\_\_\_.

14:13-15, Principle #3: \_\_\_\_\_ are good, but they should \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the faith of one who is \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith.

14:16-22a, Principle #4: Building others up in \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is what is important in the \_\_\_\_\_, not being  
" \_\_\_\_\_ " on disputable matters.

14:22b-23, Principle #5: A person who lives according to their \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is blessed.

### CELL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The following are discussion questions based off of the sermon on December 1, 2019.

1. Read the passage together, reflecting on the main points. What impacted you most about this sermon?
2. Two groups are identified in this passage. Review the explanation of each group below and discuss the group that you most identify with.

**Group #1:** "weak in faith" (14:1) weak conscience on an issue, and so restrict themselves

**Group #2:** "strong in faith" (15:1) strong conscience, and so they exercise certain freedoms

3. What are some issues in the church today, which fit into the "weak in faith" category?
4. Considering the two main points (see below), what issues might your group/church be facing which could be helped by the teaching of this passage? What about for you personally?

**POINT #1, 14:1-12:** Both "strong" and "weak" need to stop condemning each other because it is the Lord, and he alone, who has the right to assess the believer's status and conduct. Stop fighting! Accept one another!

**POINT #2, 14:13-23:** The "strong" must be careful not to cause the "weak" to suffer spiritual harm by their insistence on exercising their liberty on disputed matters. Such insistence violates the essence of the kingdom, which is to manifest love and concern for one another.

5. Each group has a specific issue that it needs to deal with. Discuss how these might be apparent in the church. Provide clear ways that you need to obey the principles in this passage (see question #3).

#### The Main Issue for Each Group:

**The strong** (eats meat) might be tempted to "regard with contempt" (or look down on and despise) those who are weak.

ATTITUDE: "Those people don't understand the freedom we have in Christ. They're not mature like us! They're legalistic. All they think about are rules."

**The weak** (eats only vegetables) may be tempted to "judge" those who are freer.

ATTITUDE: "How can those people be Christians/do that? Don't they know they're hurting the testimony of Christ? Don't they know that they are supposed to give up things like that for the sake of the gospel?"

6. The concept of "freedom in Christ" can be abused to approve of sinful living and habits in one's life. Read Romans 13:8-14. Can you think of supposed "freedoms" today that might be a violation of the foundational teaching of this passage on how to handle freedoms in Christ?