DON’T QUARREL

The church is to be a place where we welcome one another because Jesus has welcomed us (Romans 14:1; 15:7). The church is not a debating society. It is not a place where we quarrel over our opinions (Romans 14:1). The unity of the church isn’t dependent upon uniformity of opinion. Our unity depends upon our willingness to avoid placing stumbling blocks in our brother’s or sister’s way and by pursuing the things that make for peace and build one another up (Romans 14:13, 19).

Making peace and building one another up involves refusing to judge on disputable matters. We know that we don’t stand before the judgment seat of each other. We stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10, 11). We will give an account of ourselves to God, not to each other (Romans 14:12). Every servant stands or falls before his or her own master. Our Master is able to make us stand (Romans 14:4). Our Master can guide us safely through the judgment. It would be a terrible mistake to judge and condemn those whom God has welcomed.

The quarrels the Roman Christians engaged in centered on the appropriate feasting and fasting days, as well as the types of foods people chose to eat. Paul reminded them that “the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17).
Write out Romans 14 from the translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Romans 14:19–23. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 14. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How do you think of your faith? Are you strong or weak in faith? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How are the issues of food and feast and fast days faced by the Roman Christians similar to the issues we face today? How are they different?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom12-4
Review your memorized verse from Romans 14.

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Psalm 34:14
Acts 10:1–11:17
1 Corinthians 8:1–13
James 4:11, 12, 17

What other narratives come to mind about convictions, opinions, and tests?
How do you feel about modifying your behavior to protect those with weaker faith?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Romans 14 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom12-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are you personally convicted of?

What are you personally convicted of in your public behavior?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/rom12-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is the difference between a test of Christian faith and areas of opinion?

What things are there that may not be intrinsically sinful but you avoid them because of their association with your former life?

How do you feel when others do not share your conviction?

Recall a time when you quarreled over an opinion. How did it make you less (or more) spiritual?

Why do you think people feel it is so important to be right about their opinions?

In what ways could you modify your behavior to support those with weaker faith in your community?

How have people made you feel welcome in a community?

How can we create a more welcoming church?