



Romans 14:3-6 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

Romans 14:10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Romans 14: 19-23 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Icebreaker

Where would you most like to live? The woods, the ocean, the mountains?

Conversation Starters

1. How would owning that "thing" or living "there" change your relationship with it? What would be good? What would be not so good?

Read the Scripture from Romans above.

2. Do you have siblings (or parents, colleagues, friends) who believe and behave differently from you?
 - a. Is it possible both you and they are "right" in some way?
 - b. Is it possible that your ownership of the truth is adding pressure in your life?
3. What might Paul write about today that would be like the dietary laws or holy days he was writing about?
4. Kurt circled back to the idea of owning the woods, ocean or mountains by saying in the same way we want to own the truth. And once we own the truth, we feel the need to guard it, protect it and insure it. We start to be afraid we might lose it. **What does this idea turn up in your heart and mind?**
5. **Spiritual Maturity** = Living Peacefully with others who think, live and believe differently from us. Loving them as Jesus loved. How does this definition work in your life when it comes to what you believe to be true? Where do you feel the stretching and tension?
 - a. How are you to judge someone else's servant?
 - b. You, then, why do you judge your brother or your sister?
 - c. Or, why do you treat them with contempt?
6. How can you remind yourself that spiritual mature people almost always find themselves living in tension? What can you do daily to recognize the tensions and allow them to transform you? How could these three statements help you?
 - a. If anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.
 - b. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.
 - c. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.
 - i. What might Paul write about today that would be like the dietary laws or holy days he was writing

about?