

PEACE & JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST

What Is The Kingdom About?

I. **Don't judge and despise each other over personal convictions-Rm14:1**-Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to **doubtful** (debate, arguing, discussion, contention, opinion) **disputations** (argumentation in opposition to something). ²For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. ³Let not him that eateth **despise** him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not **judge** (decide, pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong) him that eateth: for God hath received him. ⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth..⁵One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. ⁶He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. ⁷For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. ⁸For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's..¹⁰But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ..¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. ¹⁴I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. ¹⁵But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. ¹⁶Let not then your good be evil spoken of: ¹⁷For the **kingdom** (rule, realm, reign) of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. ²²Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God.

- A. Meats and ceremonial days-Those strong in faith knew they'd been liberated, those weaker didn't see it and their consciences bothered them about meats and days (not in terms of salvation; Unlike Galatians)
- B. Don't argue over personal convictions-If one is saved by faith, but has a conviction about days and meats let them be-**CJ**-Arguments over opinions-**ER**-Don't argue with them about their different ideas-**GW**-About their personal opinions-**MS**-Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with
- C. Because of differing convictions, they despised and judged each other-One is looking down on another, one is judging and condemning-**V3**
- D. Who are you?-They are not your servant, you are not their master, they answer to God NOT to you-**V4-Jn21:22**-What is that to thee
- E. Be convinced in your own heart about what is right for you-Check the Word, check your heart, do what you do to the Lord-**V5-V8**
- F. Why do you judge/despise your brother?-You'll stand before God and give account for what you do, NOT what they do, so stop judging them-**V9-13**
- G. Your revelation might not be theirs-You can share your conviction and be the reason someone violate theirs conscience and conviction and then something good God revealed to you causes bad-**V13,14; Js4:17,1Ti1:13**
- H. Have your convictions to yourself-**V22**

II. **The Kingdom is about being right with God, peace and joy-Rm14:17-CEB**-God's kingdom isn't about eating food and drinking but about righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit-**IC**-In the kingdom of God, eating and drinking are not important. The important things are living right with God, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit-**CEV**-Pleasing God, living in peace, and true happiness-**ER**-In God's kingdom, what we eat and drink is not important.

Here is what is important: a right way of life, peace and joy-**VO-When God reigns**, the order of the day is redeeming justice, true peace, and joy made possible by the Holy Spirit

- A. This verse attaches great value to peace and joy and so should we
1. There's to be joy and peace in believing-Rm15:13-Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
- B. There is no peace and joy in judging and despising-These are peace robbers, joy robbers, Holy Ghosts quenchers --- One big thing that will help you enjoy the peace of God, the joy of the Lord, the presence of the Holy Spirit is to stop judging and despising
1. Pride judges, despises, stirs up strife, brings you low-Pr21:24-Proud and haughty scorner (despiser) is his name, who deals in proud wrath; Pr28:25-He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife (quarrel, contention); Pr13:10-Only by pride cometh contention (debate, strife); Pr29:23-A man's pride shall bring him low (depress)
 2. There's a connection between how humble you are and how judgmental you are and how much peace and joy you walk in
- C. There is a joy so great that it is inexpressible, a peace so great it's not understandable-1Pt1:8-Yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; Ph4:7-Peace that passeth all understanding