Do Not Destroy the Work of God

Romans 14

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, **welcome him**, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat **anything**, while the weak person eats **only** vegetables. 3 Let not the one who **eats** despise the one who **abstains**, and let not the one who **abstains** pass judgment on the one who **eats, for God has welcomed him.** 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And **he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**

5 One person esteems one day as better than another,
while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be
fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes
the day, observes it in **honor of the Lord**. The one who
eats, eats in **honor of the Lord**, since he **gives thanks to**
God, while the one who abstains, abstains **in honor of**
the Lord and gives thanks to God.

7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, **we are the Lord’s**. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, **that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.**

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For **we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**; 11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, **do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.** 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.** Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything
that causes your brother to stumble. 22 The faith that you
have, **keep between yourself and God.** Blessed is the
one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for
what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is
condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith.
For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.