

# STUDY NOTES

## A LETTER TO THE ROMANS *at* NEW CITY CHURCH [www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “It’s Not What You Eat” on 7/2/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

### PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

### SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 14 (read throughout as directed)

### CONFLICT IN THE CHURCH

The church in Rome experienced conflict over the customs of the Jewish and Gentile believers. The Jewish believers were still keeping some Old Testament laws that Jesus declared fully fulfilled. For instance, Jesus declared all foods clean in Mark 7:19. When the Gentile believers didn’t keep these customs, separation arose and they didn’t keep table fellowship together (obviously, because they wouldn’t eat the same foods).

- *Why would it be so important for the church to share table fellowship together? What would the lack of table fellowship do to the church?*
- *How is table fellowship in today’s church just as important as in the early church?*

#### **Read Romans 14:1-7.**

- *What was Paul’s instruction for working through the conflict?*

### HONORING GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Paul refuses to name any group specifically when gives his instruction. In doing so, he avoids finger pointing and turns the listeners to evaluate themselves. Paul is not focusing on ethnic divisions or the source of differing perspectives, but instead, he is

focused on the attitudes towards others who have made a different decision about these issues. Both groups were trying to honor God with their bodies. **Read vss 7-11.**

- *How can you decipher between loosely held opinions and non-negotiable Christian doctrine?*
- *Whether an opinion or a non-negotiable, how can your attitude still honor God and the other person/people?*

### ACCOUNTABLE FOR ATTITUDES AND DECISIONS

**Read vss. 12-19.** *Vs. 17 Says that “the kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but living a life of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”*

“Paul argues that Christians are just as accountable to God for their attitudes towards their brothers and sisters with whom they disagree as they are accountable for the decisions they have made that divide them from one another.” - *Katherine Grieb*

#### **Sin is not only a matter of behaviors, but also of motives.**

- *When have you been right about an issue, but approached it with the wrong attitude and hurt someone?*
- *Share about a time when you approached an issue with righteousness and peace and the outcome went well.*

### STRENGTH USED FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

**Read vss. 20-23.** Paul advises the “strong” in faith not only to avoid tripping up those who are “weak in faith”, but also to actively support them. This is the model of how Jesus interacts with us. Followers of Jesus should continue to follow the model of Christ’s suffering even for those who reject Christ.

- *How should Christ’s work on the cross reorient us to different way of viewing others?*
- *Pray for unity with each other.*