

## **Romans 14:1-12<sup>iv</sup>**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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### **<sup>iv</sup> About Romans 14:1-12**

Today's reading is from a longer section (14:1-15:13) dealing with those who maintain various practices (such as abstinence from certain foods and the observance of special days) and those who do not. Paul's counsel centers around the motive for the behavior. Life and death are equally subject to Christ's Lordship. By his death, resurrection and complete obedience, Jesus is Lord over all. As Lord, he deserves our service and worship. The choice to eat or to

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abstain, as every choice, must be made in light of Christ. Christ alone will judge the person's acts and intentions.