

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

RLJ-1600

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### PART 28: VEGANS VS. MEAT EATERS

In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter to the Romans, Paul states how Christians should conduct themselves and how we should treat one another with respect and love. The membership in Rome was not homogeneous, but consisted of Jews and Gentiles from different nations. Thus the church was a melting pot of different cultures; each one maintaining certain beliefs about food and feast days.

#### **VEGETARIANS VS. MEAT EATERS**

When Paul spoke about eating meat, he was working under the assumption that Christians in Rome were familiar with the food laws as laid out in the Old Testament.

Some of the church members came from a vegetarian background and they wanted to continue in that tradition. The meat eaters looked down upon the vegetarians and there was strife within the church. Paul stressed that a vegetarian should not be viewed as someone weak in the faith. **Romans 14:1-3**

Jesus did not void the laws of Moses given to the children of Israel. He fulfilled the Sacrificial laws but the Moral laws and the Practical laws were still in effect. **Matthew 5:17-19**

The Pharisees followed the tradition of the elders (also known as the Talmud) and taught the people it was sinful to eat without washing their hands first. Jesus countered by stating that defilement did not come from what entered the belly, but the spoken words that originate from the soul. The Pharisees believed that they could lie, cheat and steal, as long as they kept their Talmudic rituals. **Matthew 15:1-20**

The Pharisees publicly kept all the man-made Talmudic rules but inwardly were full of sin. **Matthew 23:1-33**

Paul taught that the animal kingdom is not sinful, and so if a Christian makes the statement that eating meat is sinful, then it is indeed sinful to him. **Romans 14:14**

#### **PERSONAL PREFERENCES**

Christians should not judge one another in personal preferences when it comes to holidays, customs and rituals that have nothing to do with the plan of salvation. **Romans 14:4-13**

#### **RESPECT OTHERS**

We are not to destroy the faith of other Christians. If we are invited to someone's home or eat at a restaurant, we should be careful not to offend a vegetarian by eating meat in their presence. **Romans 14:15-21**

Your personal faith should be just that – personal. Do not impose your rules and regulations on other Christians. On the other hand, do not compromise yourself in order to please other people. **verses 22-23**



Live your life before the Lord according to what the Bible teaches, and once you have removed the beam from your own eye, then will be able to remove the mote from your neighbor's eye. **Matthew 7:1-5**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***