



# **Answers to Tough Questions:** **Can Christians Eat Blood, Practice** **Yoga, Celebrate Halloween, Etc?** **Part II**

Pastor Jason Kim  
Romans 14:1-15:13

# Introduction





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What is a neutral (gray) issues?

1. Drinking alcohol
2. Smoking/Vaping
3. Gambling
4. Skipping church for school/sport events
5. Getting a tattoo
6. Use Fung Shui
7. Celebrating Halloween
8. Practice Yoga
9. Dating non-Christian
10. Eating blood



# Introduction

What is a neutral (gray) issues? It is anything that the Bible does not clearly teach is either right or wrong but that someone could hold as wrong based on personal conviction (Rom. 14:14)—diet and days, not essential doctrines and moral absolutes.

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- The weak Christian in this context is weak in conscience in relation to grey issues. The weak in this passage were probably Christians with a Jewish background.

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  - Immature weak Christian: person who feels that it is wrong to participate in a grey or doubtful area, and every Christian should think the same way. Confuse biblical standards with their own personal opinions. Legalistic or judgmental.

# I. The Weak Christian (Rom. 14:1-12)



- Different types of weak Christians:
  - Immature weak Christian: person who feels that it is wrong to participate in a grey or doubtful area, and every Christian should think the same way. Confuse biblical standards with their own personal opinions. Legalistic or judgmental.
  - Mature weak Christian: knowledge frees him to allow others to disagree with his personal opinion. The mind has knowledge but he heart does not feel the freedom to go ahead.

# I. The Weak Christian (Rom. 14:1-12)



- What is the cure to this weak/judgmental spirit? In vs. 7-12, Paul appeals to the Lordship of Christ.

## II. The Strong Christian (Rom 14:13-21)



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- A strong Christian is one whose strong conscience allows him the freedom to participate in a grey issues without sinning. In this passage, the strong were probably Gentile believers.

*<sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Rom.14:17

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- Mature strong Christian: Christians may decide not to participate in certain grey issues for many reasons. If someone could be hurt, the loving response is to give up one's right.
- Immature strong Christian: Some believers insist that no other Christian has the right to tell them what they can or cannot do.

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- What is Paul's cure to the immaturity of the strong? Concern for the spiritual good of your brothers and sisters in Christ's church. Which is more important? Your liberty, or your brother's spiritual good?
- As Christians, we are free in Christ. And although we have freedom, God does NOT command that we always exercise those freedoms. But rather, we ought to relinquish personal liberties for the sake of fellow believers.

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  2. To avoid degrading our freedom in Christ.



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- Paul commands the strong to limit their freedom for three reasons:
  1. To avoid causing a brother to sin.
  2. To avoid degrading our freedom in Christ.
  3. To please one another (both weak and strong)

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1. Is this action causing a brother or sister to stumble?

*<sup>20</sup> Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. Romans 14:20*

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1. Is this action causing a brother or sister to stumble?  
(Rom.14:20)
2. Is this action harmful rather than beneficial to my faith?

*<sup>12</sup> “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.*

I Corinthians 6:12

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2. Is this action harmful rather than beneficial to my faith? (I Cor.6:12)
3. Is this action controlling me? (I Cor.6:12)
4. Am I judging others who don't agree with me in this grey issue?

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. Romans 14:13*

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- This is an important principle to remember: God accepts both convictions. I might have a conviction about some issue while my Christian friend might have an opposite conviction. We both could be right in God's eyes. However, if I condemn my friend's conviction, I am in sin.

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- **To the strong:** How can you be a self-centered strong and insist on your own rights if that is a stumbling block to your brother in Christ? This is sin!