



## WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE WEAK ONES? (3)

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In Romans 14:14 – 15:2 Paul is still dealing with the question of how we should treat other Christians who don't think the way we do. He wants us to understand how our views could put stumbling blocks in their way, and what a serious thing it is to do that.

- ◆ How is it possible that something that God has declared clean can actually be unclean to some Christians (verses 14 and 23)?

What does this tell you about the importance of paying heed to your conscience?

Is it possible for your conscience to mislead you and, if it can, if so, how can you be sure of what's right and what's wrong?

- ◆ What does Paul mean when he talks about a brother being “grieved” and “destroyed” (verse 15)?
- ◆ In verses 17 and 18 Paul tells us that things like food and drink don't matter in the kingdom of God — at least they don't matter enough to risk causing a brother or sister to stumble. What are they things that do matter?

◆ Why, do you think, in verses 20 and 21 does Paul repeat what he has already said?

◆ Explain the meaning of verse 22.

◆ What are the things Paul says we should pursue with one another (verse 19)?

What should we do, or avoid, if we want to pursue peace with Christians who think differently to us?

How can we edify (build up) Christians who think differently and at the same time pursue peace with them?

◆ It's clear from verses 21 and 15:1 Paul has more in mind than the issue of whether or not it is right to eat meat. That was just an example. Can you think of other examples of issues on which we may differ from other Christians and how our views on those issues could put stumbling blocks in their way?