

Romans 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Analysis

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God—The emphatic ἔκαστος ἡμῶν (hekastos hēmōn, 'each one of us') shifts from corporate solidarity (v. 7-8) to individual responsibility. The future verb ἀποδώσει (apodōsei, 'shall give') indicates eschatological certainty—this is not hypothetical but guaranteed. The phrase περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λόγον (peri heautou logon, 'account concerning himself') uses accounting language: each believer will render a detailed report of their stewardship.

This verse balances v. 7's corporate emphasis with individual accountability—both truths exist in tension. The account is given **to God** (τῷ Θεῷ), not to other believers, which undercuts judgmental attitudes in disputable matters. If you'll answer to God for your own conscience decisions, you have no right to judge your brother's (v. 10). The 'account' (λόγος) implies intelligibility—believers will be able to articulate why they made their choices, demonstrating that Christian freedom requires thoughtful stewardship, not thoughtless license.

Historical Context

This teaching corrects both extremes in the Roman church: the 'strong' who despised the 'weak' for scrupulosity, and the 'weak' who condemned the 'strong' for license. Both groups were playing God by judging matters God had left to individual conscience. Paul anchors ethics in future judgment (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15) where believers give account not for salvation (secured by Christ) but for stewardship of freedom.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What specific disputable matters in your life require you to 'give account to God' rather than conform to others' expectations?
2. How does future accountability to God (not to other Christians) free you from both legalism and license?
3. In what areas might you be judging other believers' stewardship decisions that they must account to God for, not you?

Interlinear Text

ἄρα	οὖν	ἔκαστος	ἡμῶν	περὶ	ἔαυτοῦ	λόγον	δώσει	τῷ
then	So	every one	of us	of	himself	account	shall give	G3588
G686	G3767	G1538	G2257	G4012	G1438	G3056	G1325	

θεῷ

to God

G2316

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:36 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

1 Peter 4:5 (Parallel theme): Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

Matthew 16:27 (Parallel theme): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Galatians 6:5 (Parallel theme): For every man shall bear his own burden.

Luke 16:2 (Parallel theme): And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (References God): Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

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