

Romans 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Analysis

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike—Hos men gar krinei hēmeran par' hēmeran, hos de krinei pasan hēmeran (ὅς μὲν γὰρ κρίνει ἡμέραν παρ' ἡμέραν, ὅς δὲ κρίνει πᾶσαν ἡμέραν). Krinei (regards/considers) here means personal judgment, not condemnation. Hēmeran par' hēmeran (one day above another) refers to Sabbath observance, Jewish feast days, or fasting days. Some believers maintained OT calendar; others considered pasan hēmeran (every day alike)—no sacred calendar under the New Covenant (Colossians 2:16-17).

Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind—Hekastos en tō idiō noi plērophoristhō (ἕκαστος ἐν τῷ ἰδίῳ νοῷ πληροφορεῖσθω). Plērophoreō (πληροφορέω, be fully convinced/assured) uses passive imperative—let each be fully convinced. En tō idiō noi (in his own mind) emphasizes personal conscience before God. This isn't relativism ('believe whatever you want') but liberty on non-essentials. Core doctrines demand consensus (1 Corinthians 15:1-8); disputable matters allow diversity. Conscience must be informed by Scripture, yet Scripture allows freedom where it doesn't mandate.

Historical Context

Jewish Christians observed Sabbath (Saturday); Gentile Christians worshiped on Lord's Day (Sunday, Acts 20:7, Revelation 1:10). Some maintained Jewish feasts

(Passover, Pentecost); others didn't. Paul allows both, provided they act from conviction, not coercion. This principle later applied to Christmas/Easter observance, liturgical calendars, and Sabbatarianism debates. Colossians 2:16 is more forceful ('let no man judge you'), but Romans 14 is pastoral—both positions acceptable if done 'unto the Lord' (v. 6). The key: heart-motivation, not external conformity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'days' do you esteem—Sabbath, Sunday, feast days, or none—and are you 'fully persuaded' (plērophoristhō) or merely conforming?
2. How do you distinguish between issues requiring conformity (essential doctrines) and those allowing diversity (disputable matters)?
3. In what areas might you be imposing your conscience on others rather than letting them be 'fully persuaded in their own mind'?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	μὲν	κρίνει	ἡμέραν·	παρ'	ἡμέραν·	ὅς	δὲ
another	One	esteemeth	another	above	another	another	G1161
G3739	G3303	G2919	G2250	G3844	G2250	G3739	

κρίνει	πᾶσαν	ἡμέραν·	ἕκαστος	ἐν	τῷ	ἰδίῳ	νοῦ
esteemeth	every	another	every man	in	G3588	his own	mind
G2919	G3956	G2250	G1538	G1722		G2398	G3563

πληροφορείσθω

alike Let
G4135

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:23 (Parallel theme): And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

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