

Gray Areas, Personal Convictions & Preferences (Romans 14:1-23)

The Cultural Context

Paul is addressing:

- (1) Believing Jews who had difficulty giving up the ceremonial law.
- (2) Believing Jews who understood the ceremonial law had been fulfilled in Christ.
- (3) Believing Gentiles who had been saved out of pagan idolatry who refused to eat meat that had been associated with idol worship.
- (4) Believing Gentiles who understood that God created all foods and therefore all foods are good. (2 Tim. 4:1-5)

Several dangers to the church of being guided by personal conviction and preferences

- 1. It disrupts our Christian unity. (Romans 14:1-4)**
- 2. It promotes a spirit of judgmentalism. (Romans 14:1-14)**
- 3. It distracts us from the true nature of God's Kingdom. (Romans 14:13-23)**