

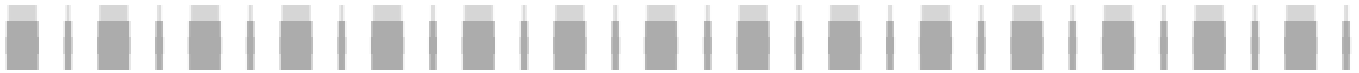
Based on the preaching from Sunday **11 October, 2026**, ‘**Living for the Lord, accountable to God**’

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Sermon Text: **Romans 14:7-12**

Key Ideas from the Sermon:

- Disagreements had arisen in the Roman Church over what behaviours were unacceptable (eating meat previously offered to an idol) or recommended (observing sacred days). These behaviours were described as “matters of conscience” by Paul in 14:6, things which were neither endorsed or forbidden by Scripture.
- These matters of conscience originally involved primarily acts of devotion or acts of defilement, but the principle has been applied to many more activities today.
- Not every action is a matter of conscience for Christians: some are expressly forbidden in Scripture (ie. adultery) and some are not moral issues at all (ie. what car you drive).
- Paul identifies those who exercise freedom in these matters to be “strong” and those who feel bound by these matters to be “weak.” Still, unity in diversity is his goal.
- Paul’s primary command is to not judge others on these matters of conscience, whether those who exercise more liberty than you prefer, or are more restrained.
- The reason we are not to judge is that we will stand before God’s judgment, we are accountable to God, first and foremost.
- Christians who have freedom on these matters of conscience are free to exercise that freedom but should not flaunt it.



Bible Study: The Swedish Method [**Romans 14:7-12**]

1. Begin by praying, asking God to speak through His Word
2. Read the Bible passage aloud, being careful to read slowly
3. Go back over the passage (allow about 10 minutes of silence), being on the lookout for and taking note of the following four things:



Lightbulb: This should be something that ‘shines’ from the passage- whatever impacts most, or draws attention.

Notes:



Question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader might like to ask the writer of the passage, or the Lord.

Notes:



Jesus: What does this passage teach me about who Jesus is, what he has done for me and what it means for me to follow him in my life.

Notes:



Arrow: A personal application for the reader’s life. Notes: