

“Let No One Be Your Judge”
Colossians 2:16-17

I. Let no one condemn you in matters of food and drink.

- A. Regarding food, Paul was referring to the Old Testament (OT) laws for clean and unclean food. (Deut. 14:3-20)
- B. Regarding drink, Paul was likely referring to the OT Nazarite vows, which forbade drinking alcohol to those who were under that vow.
- C. Such laws were shadows pointing towards the spiritual purity revealed in Christ’ character and given through His death and resurrection.
- D. Also, Jesus authoritatively removed those Old Testament restrictions.

Mark 7:18–19 - ¹⁸ And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.)

Luke 7:33–34 - ³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon!” ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!”

- E. Matters of food and drink are of no importance in Christ’s kingdom today:

Romans 14:17 - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

II. Don’t condemn others for *not* eating and drinking as freely as you do.

Romans 14:1–4 - ¹ Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. ³ The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.