



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

S.H.I.F.T.

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

November 21

Sing with me:

I love you Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoNeeHbM7Og>

Memory Verse: Romans 14:12 (NIRV)

12 So we will all have to explain to God the things we have done.

Scripture: Romans 14 (NIRV)

Read with me

Accept the person whose faith is weak. Don't argue with them where you have differences of opinion. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything. But another person eats only vegetables because their faith is weak. 3 The person who eats everything must not look down on the one who does not. And the one who doesn't eat everything must not judge the person who does. That's because God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? Whether they are faithful or not is their own master's concern. And they will be faithful, because the Lord has the power to make them faithful.

5 One person considers one day to be more holy than another. Another person thinks all days are the same. Each of them should be absolutely sure in their own mind. 6 Whoever thinks that one day is special does so to honor the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to honor the Lord. They give thanks to God. And whoever doesn't eat meat does so to honor the Lord. They also give

thanks to God. 7 We don't live for ourselves only. And we don't die for ourselves only. 8 If we live, we live to honor the Lord. If we die, we die to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and came back to life. He did this to become the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Now then, who are you to judge your brother or sister? Why do you act like you're better than they are? We will all stand in God's courtroom to be judged. 11 It is written, " 'You can be sure that I live,' says the Lord.

'And you can be just as sure that everyone will kneel down in front of me. Every tongue will have to tell the truth about God.' " (Isaiah 45:23)

12 So we will all have to explain to God the things we have done.

13 Let us stop judging one another. Instead, decide not to put anything in the way of a brother or sister. Don't put anything in their way that would make them trip and fall. 14 I am absolutely sure that nothing is "unclean" in itself. The Lord Jesus has convinced me of this. But someone may consider a thing to be "unclean." If they do, it is "unclean" for them. 15 Your brother or sister may be upset by what you eat. If they are, you are no longer acting as though you love them. So don't destroy them by what you eat. Remember that Christ died for them.

16 So suppose you know something is good. Then don't let it be spoken of as if it were evil. 17 God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. 18 Those who serve Christ in this way are pleasing to God. They are pleasing to people too.

19 So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. 20 Don't destroy the work of God because of food. All food is "clean." But it's wrong to eat anything that might cause problems for someone else's faith. 21 Don't eat meat if it causes your brother or sister to sin. Don't drink wine or do anything else that will make them sin.

22 Whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the person who doesn't feel guilty for what they do. 23 But whoever has doubts about what they eat is guilty if they eat. That's because their eating is not based on faith. Everything that is not based on faith is sin.

Let us talk about it.

In our last series of lessons, Paul has been guiding us to living the Christian way of life. In Romans 12, we learnt how to show sincere love, how to be kind, how to bless others and do not curse, how to be at peace with our neighbour, and how to love our enemies. Paul, in this Bible reading, Romans 14, is taking us to the next level. Think about it. Are you, what we will call, judgmental? Are you always looking to correct everyone for what they do? Are you the person who can find fault with whatever someone does? Because you do not like something, does it mean everyone else should not like it? Some of us, do believe everyone should behave the same way we do. Is it "your way or the highway!" There are some people who think only their opinion is important.

Paul, in this chapter of his letter to the Romans, is cautioning the Christians in Rome to be careful of how they treat other people. He wants us to accept other people as they are and not be critical of others for their beliefs. The church in Rome was made up of both Jewish believers and Gentile believers. Jewish believers were raised under the Law of God and Jewish traditions. Gentiles were raised making sacrifices to false gods. As a result, many Jewish people would only eat vegetables because they were afraid they would eat meat which had been sacrificed, by the Gentiles, to an idol. When these Jews and Gentiles became believers, some were strong in their new freedom in Christ, others were not. Paul, in asking that we respect other people's beliefs, wants us to recognize we are all responsible for our actions, and not the actions of others. Paul wants us to accept each other for who they are. He wants us to avoid judging others.

In verse 10, Paul tells us ***“Now then, who are you to judge your brother or sister? Why do you act like you're better than they are? We will all stand in God's courtroom to be judged”***. Imagine this, you are in class. The teacher steps out for a moment. As the teacher returns, you start to complain about the behaviour of the class. But you know what? You were not behaving very well either. Or, your mother has gone to the store and left you and your siblings with chores to be completed by the time she gets back. On her return, you start to complain about everyone, but you did not do your chores either. Paul wants us to be wary of complaining about others, and of criticizing others.

Remember we said earlier that the church was made up of two types of people, the Jews and the Samaritans. Reading Luke 18: 9 – 14, Jesus told a parable of two men who went to pray, a Pharisee and a tax collector. This parable is aimed at those who think they are very righteous so look down on others. Jews had to pray three times a day and people would go to the temple for private prayer. The Pharisee prayed about himself, informing God of the wrong things he had not done, “I am not like other men – robbers, evil-doers and adulterers”. Then he spoke about the religious practices he had observed, fasting twice a week and giving tithes. The Pharisee thought he was praying, but he was only praising himself.

The tax collector, on the other hand, put his head down and kept hitting himself to show how sorry he was for his life. He knew he was a sinner and he knew he needed God to forgive him. Nobody can be proud of himself in front of God.

As Jesus explained, when the men went home, only the tax collector had pleased God, as he had been humble and asked for forgiveness. ***A person's attitude is important to God.***

God does not need your help in bringing others to justice. God is the Judge, so let God be the judge. As far as it is up to us, accept one another and trust God to judge. It is not that you do not try to keep someone from going down what you consider to be the wrong path. Or you do not help a person to keep out of trouble. It is not about you trying to determine how a person should live a Christian life. You must realize there are certain things you cannot do.

At the end of the day, it is not that God does not want you to care, but he wants your caring to be honest and sincere. You have to answer to God for your own actions. In this COVID environment, think about what God will want you to do. Observe the protocols, go out only if you have to, pay attention to your school work, listen to your teacher in class. Remember, God is not going to ask you about others, but about you. You are responsible for you and what you do.

Let us Pray

Dear God, help me not to be quick to judge other people or point out what they're doing wrong until I've looked at what I am doing wrong. Help me to be more concerned about changing what I do before I try changing what other people do. May my life be the example other people need to bring them closer to Jesus. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Complete the following word search. Romans 14

Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, backwards or forwards. There are 17 words in this word search.



accept
condemn
effort
judgment
stumble

account
convinced
faith
meat

obstacle
stumbling
strong
vegetables

clean
dead
inventory
mind