

Romans 14:5-6 and Hosea 2:11

Romans 14:1-6 [King James] *“Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.”*

To begin with, it must be admitted that the word “Sabbath” is not found in the entire chapter.

Yet some people assume Paul is talking about the Sabbath.

The chapter begins by highlighting the fact it is about “*disputes over doubtful things*” [NKJV], it is **not** a discussion of the Ten Commandments, God’s “*big ten*” are **not** “*doubtful*” but exceedingly dear, written personally with the finger of the Great Creator God, on two tables of stone, showing how permanent they are.

Also very significant is that the word “*alike*” in **v5** does **not** exist in the original Greek and is an added word, which tends to convey an idea which the apostle Paul **never** designed or intended.

The main subject of dispute was concerning meats and days, which may include fast days. [Matthew 9:14-15]

The converted Jew retaining respect for the law of Moses abstaining from certain meats and observed ceremonial days while the converted gentile understood that becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ put them under no obligation towards these ceremonial points.

It also appears that mutual and heartless judgements existed among the congregations [**Romans 14:13-21**] and reciprocal tolerance did **not** always prevail.

Paul exhorts that such things **no** longer essential to Christianity. That even though both parties had a different way of thinking they may and probably do still have an honest and serious regard for God.

Paul then explains they should **not** therefore let such different sentiments hinder Christian fellowship and love.

Especially **not** to carry their gospel liberty so far as to prejudice a weak brother or a Jewish convert.

Although Paul did not specify what “days” he was referring to, he could only be “esteeming” or “not esteeming” of certain Jewish or feast days and certain pagan feast days when people were especially “eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice to idols.”

1 Corinthians 8:4, 9-13 [King James] *“As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.” ... “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol’s temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”*

There is no evidence in these scriptures about “the weak and the strong” has anything to do with the Seventh Day Sabbath.

God has never said “one person may choose to esteem My Sabbath, while another person may choose to esteem the Sunday.” God has **not** left it up to humans to “pick a day.”

Exodus 20:8-10 [King James] *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:”*

God has commanded we remember and keep His Sabbath Day.

Romans 3:20 [King James] *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

It is by the Ten Commandments that we know what sin is. [Romans 7:7, 12]

When the Ten Commandments are being referred to, the context of the passage of scripture will always be centred around love, as that is what the Ten Commandments are.

Matthew 22:35-40 [King James] *“Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

All the Ten Commandments are pointing towards love for God and other human beings.

Romans 13:8-10 [King James] *“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”*

It takes selfless love to fulfil the Ten Commandments.

1 John 4:7-13 [King James] *“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”*

It is the selfless, sacrificial love that is being referred to, the love that is the first fruit of the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit. [**Galatians 5:22**]

Matthew 5:17-19 [King James] *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

The laws that Jesus Christ fulfilled were the sacrificial ceremonial laws.

The prophecies Jesus Christ fulfilled were those foretelling His coming and what He would do when He was on earth the first time.

Jesus Christ in no way implied the Ten Commandments were going to be abolished or changed. But to the contrary, Jesus Christ showed us the spiritual intent of the Ten Commandments, thus making them of eternal value.

To imply that Colossians 2:16, Galatians 4:10 or Romans 14:5 refer to the Ten Commandments is to take them completely out of context and also have them fail to line up with other scriptures throughout the Holy Spirit inspired Christian Bible. [2 Timothy 3:16]

In the desperate attempt to prove that the Lord's Seventh Day Sabbath is abolished, some people search for any scripture they can misuse in their argument.

Hosea 2:11 [King James] *"I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts."*

To understand what is being said in this scripture we need to see the similarities in context between this scripture and **Colossians 2:16** in regards to the mention of feast days, new moons and ceremonial Sabbath days.

The reason for the similarities is that **Hosea 2:11** also refers to the Mosaic law and its sacrificial system that had meat and drink offerings, feast days, new moons and ceremonial Sabbath days.

There is also another very significant fact that proves this conclusion.

Symbolically, the Christian Bible refers to the Church as a woman as the Church will become the Bride of Jesus Christ. [Revelation 19:7-8]

Israel was God's Old Testament Church. [Acts 7:35-38] This is why we find that when it was guilty of idolatry God refers to it as adultery even as a harlot.

Note that in **Hosea 2:11** the constant use of the word "*her*," these Sabbaths were not God's **Seventh Day Sabbath**, but the Sabbaths that were linked to the feast days that point towards our reconciliation and redemption and the sacrificial system that pointed towards the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The Fourth Commandment Sabbath is referred to by the Creator God as "*my*" Sabbath, [Exodus 20:20; Exodus 31:13] that were eternal in nature as were the other nine Commandments.

Note also in **Hosea 2:11** the word cease, not abolish. **This is because it was referring to their time of captivity because of their idolatry, also read Lamentations 1:7.**

The prophecy in Hosea 2:11 was fulfilled around 722BC and not at the time of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

There are no scriptures that can be used to say that the worship of God on the Seventh Day Sabbath has ceased.

[Please download and study our articles 'What Day Is God's Sabbath Day?', 'The Sabbath To Sunday Change', 'Who Changed The Sabbath To Sunday?' and 'God's Festivals And Holy Days' all found under sub-heading 'Covenants.']