

Romans 14:13-23

LI. Strong and Weak Believers in Unity - Pt 2 - Build Up One Another Without Offending

A. Don't Cause Your Brother to Stumble - vs 13

1. Therefore,

a. refers back to vs 10-12

b. God alone has the authority to judge

2. let us not judge one another anymore

a. Judge - unloving attitude/ contemptuous superiority/ self-righteousness - Mt 7:1-5

b. *krino* - to distinguish, decide (mentally or judicially); to try, condemn, punish, avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think.

i. 2 times in vs 13 - 1st carries negative idea of condemnation, denunciation

ii. 2nd - translated resolve - carries the idea of to determine, to make a careful decision w/ no negative connotation

c. but rather resolve this

i. not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way - 1 Co 8:9,13; 10:31-32

ii. Carries the idea of stumbling into sin

iii. or not being sensitive to areas of weakness in fellow believers

B. Don't Grieve Your Brother - vs 14-15a

1. truth about non-sinful things - for the strong

a. I know that there is nothing unclean of itself; - 1 Co 6:12; 10:23

i. Jesus' teaching - Mt 15:11, 17; Mk 7:15, 19

ii. What Paul understood - vs 14; 1 Co 10:25; 1 Ti 4:4-5; Tit 1:15

b. I am convinced by the Lord Jesus

i. not a personal opinion or preference

ii. By divine revelation - Mt 15:11, 17; Mk 7:15, 19; Ac 10:15

2. the weak conscience - 1Co 8:4-7

a. but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

b. Violating one's conscience

i. persistence in violating the conscience sears it - 1 Ti 4:2

ii. violation by others

- Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food,

- *lupeo* - to distress; to be sad, cause grief, grieve, be in heaviness, (be) sorrow(-ful), be (make) sorry.

- used of

- Peter when confronted by Jesus - Jo 21:17

- The Holy Spirit - Eph 4:30

- not understanding liberty, seeing a stronger believer do something

- emboldened to do it, violating one's own conscience

- the weaker one holding the stronger to his own standard and then disappointed when they walk according to their standard

iii. you are no longer walking in love. - 1 Co 8:11

C. Don't Destroy Your Brother - vs 15b

1. Do not destroy

a. *apollumi* - to destroy fully (to perish, or lose), die, lose, mar, perish.

b. carries the idea of ruin

c. Spiritual calamity that continues, seriously affecting spiritual growth

2. the one for whom Christ died.

a. consider what Christ says about offending little ones - Mt 18:1-6, 14

b. Newer believers that are spiritually devastated is a great offense to God

D. Don't Forfeit Your Witness - vs 16-19

1. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

a. Christian liberty is not for one's own benefit or selfish abuse - 1 Co 10:31-32

b. never used to give the world an excuse for it to be spoken of as evil - Gal 5:13

2. for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. - 1Co 8:8

a. righteousness - Eph 6:14; Phil 1:10-11

b. peace - Gal 5:22; Ro 12:10-13

c. joy - like peace, a product of righteousness/ fruit of the Spirit - 1 Th 1:6

3. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

a. serving Christ

i. living unto God - Ro 14:7-9; 2 Co 5:15

ii. Building on the foundation of Christ - 1 Co 3:10-15

b. approved - *dokimos* - acceptable, approved, tried.

4. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

E. Don't Destroy the Work of God - vs 20-21

1. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.

a. *kataluo* - to loosen down (disintegrate), to demolish; to halt for the night:-- destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.

b. a command indicating that some were doing it

c. in the early church, food would have been a major issue, relates to anything not sinful that there may be varying opinions - 1Co 6:12; 10:23- All things are lawful

i. All things indeed are pure,

ii. but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.

2. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do **anything** by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. - 1Co 8:13

F. Don't Denounce or Flaunt Your Liberty - vs 22-23

1. Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. - 1Jo 3:21

2. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats,

a. because he does not eat from faith;

b. for whatever is not from faith is sin.