

THE ANSWERS TO LEGALISM Pt. 7 (Romans 7:1-6)

9. There is the problem of the _____ of others in areas of personal liberty or conscience. (Romans 14)

Instruction / Application: Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. (14:1)

Example #1: For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. (14:2)

Warnings about how NOT to handle these differences: (14:3)

- 1) Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and
- 2) let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; **Why?** for God has received him.

Question: Who are you to judge another's servant? (14:4a) **Answer:** To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. (14:4b)

Example #2: One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike.

Instruction / Application: Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. (14:5)

Bottom Line Issue #1 in an area of liberty and conscience: "CAN I WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE DO _____ AS UNTO _____?"(14:6-9)

He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord;

and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.

He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks;

and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. 7

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Bottom Line Issue #2 in an area of liberty and conscience: "WILL I BE ABLE TO GIVE A _____ TO THE LORD IN MY USE OF PERSONAL LIBERTY?" (14:10-12):

Question #2: But why do you judge your brother? (14:10a)

Question #3: Or why do you show contempt for your brother? (14:10b)

Reason: For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (14:10c)

Scriptural support: For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." (14:11)

Conclusion: So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (14:12)

Bottom Line Issue #3 in an area of liberty and conscience: "AM I USING MY PERSONAL LIBERTY IN A WAY THAT IS _____ AND _____? (14:13-17) Therefore let us not

judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Biblical Principle: I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself;

Observation #1: but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. (14:14)

Observation #2: Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. (14:15a)

Instruction / Application: Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. (14:15b)

Warning: Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; (14:16) **Reason:** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Bottom Line Issue #4 in an area of liberty and conscience: “AM I USING MY LIBERTY TO _____ AND _____ OTHERS? (14:18-20):

The Purpose and Result: For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. (14:18)

Instruction / Application: Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. (14:19)

Warning: Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. (14:20)

Bottom Line Issue #5 in an area of liberty and conscience (14:21): “AM I WILLING TO _____ MY USE OF LIBERTY IN _____ TOWARD OTHERS?

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. [See 1 Cor.8:9-13]

Bottom Line Issue #6 in an area of liberty and conscience: “AM I ABLE TO DO _____ BY _____ AS UNTO THE LORD WITHOUT _____? (14:22)

Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Bottom Line Issue #7 in an area of liberty and conscience: “AM I WILLING TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF _____ AND USE LIBERTY TO NOT _____ BUT TO _____ MY NEIGHBOR? (15:1-7)

Instruction / Application: We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. (15:1-2)

The Ultimate Example: For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." [Psalm 69:9] (15:3)

Compare Scripture for Biblical Balance: Galatians 1:10; Ephes.6:6; Col.3:23; 1 Thess.2:4; 1 Cor.9:19-23)

The value of Scripture: For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (15:4)

A prayer of dependence upon God for like-mindedness: Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus (15:5)

The ultimate objective: that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15:6)

The closing instruction / application: Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. (15:7)