

What are we willing to forsake for the sake of love?

Romans 14:13-23

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

Romans 14:13

ESV

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Romans 14:14

ESV

For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

Romans 14:15-16

ESV

We must remember that love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, takes precedence over any enjoyment that we are at liberty to experience.

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:22

ESV

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Romans 14:17–19

ESV

The Kingdom of God flows from the Gospel of Christ.

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

Romans 14:20–21

ESV

What is true Christian freedom? It is the freedom to forsake our liberty for the sake of others.

Sin is never a Christian liberty.

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5

ESV

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

ESV

The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

Romans 14:22

ESV

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Romans 14:23

ESV

Now for some inspired final thoughts

Romans 15:1-7

Sermon: Romans 14:13-23

1. Read Romans 15:14 & 1 Timothy 3:16-17—Last week we learned that the weak believer had a strong conscience but was not “Biblically Informed” on his/her convictions. Discuss ways Christians can work together through our non-salvific differences, while maintaining unity in Christ.
2. Last week we discussed welcoming the weak in faith. Read 3rd John 9-10
 - a. What is Diotrephes doing that is not in step with Christian conduct?
 - b. Why do you think John says that he (Diotrephes) “likes to put himself first” and how do we guard against this type of attitude in ourselves?
 - c. Read Romans 12:3-5 How do we maintain unity in Christ?
3. Read Romans 14:22a
 - a. What is Paul exhorting the strong to do?
 - b. Discuss what we could do to be aware of things that might cause others to stumble and in what ways can we keep our faith (liberties) between ourselves and God.
4. Sin is never a Christian liberty. Discuss the differences between Christian liberties versus sin?
5. Read Romans 14:19, James 3:18, Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:9. What should our focus be on to maintain peace and mutual upbuilding amongst true followers of Christ?
6. Read Romans 15:1-7 and John 15:12-14
 - a. How is the Christ like character defined in these scriptures?
 - b. What does loving our brothers and sisters require us to do? See also (Philippians 2:3-4)
7. Read Romans 14:13 and James 4:11-13
 - a. What kind of judgements are we commanded not to do?
 - b. What are the differences in making judgements and passing judgements?
 - c. Discuss ways we can guard against passing judgements on our brothers and sisters.