

Not Under the Law: Dealing With Our Differences

Romans 14.1-15.7

How it differs from I Cor 8-10

- I Corinthians deals with a questionable liberty: eating meat offered to idols
- It isn't that the food is defiled, it's that the fellowship is defiled
- So, if you eat some of that food unknowingly, it doesn't hurt you
- But if you know—don't do it

- All NT believers are free from the Law
- But all do not grasp the nature of that freedom equally, nor practice that freedom equally
- Some are weak: Romans 14.1
- Some are strong: Romans 15.1

Why is this so?

- When the Gospel came to Gentiles, this caused great trauma to Jews and Judaism
- Acts 10.1-28
- Acts 11.1-3; 17-18
- Acts 11.19-21
- Acts 13.14; 13.42-48

- Acts 14.1-2
- Acts 14.27
- Acts 15.1-5
- Acts 15.6-31
- Everywhere that Paul went, he fought that fight
- Some Jews were willing to add Jesus to the Law
- Paul insisted that it was Jesus minus the Law

- If it was the topic of salvation, Paul was adamant: No Law
- But what about if it was a matter of conscience, of the practice of Christianity before God?

What makes one weak or strong?

- The way one thinks about things contained in the Law
- Romans 14.2; Romans 14.5

Who gets to assign those labels?

- Jesus
- Romans 14.14
- This from the man whose biography was: Php 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Php 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. Php 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

To the weak, the Lord says

- Don't be contentious, 14.1; 15.2
- Do not judge the one who eats.
14.3
- Do not eat unless your own
conscience is clear. 14.5; 14.14;
14.20; 14.23

To the strong, the Lord says

- Do not hold the weak in contempt.
14.3
- Come to this determination: you will not injure your weaker brother, 14.13
- If you won't do this, you aren't acting in love, 14.15-16

- Enjoy your liberty, but not at your brother's expense, 14.21-22
- Bear his weakness, 15.1-3

The Lord has commands for both
the weak and the strong

- Receive each other. Romans 14.1;
15.7
- To receive is to welcome as an
equal, a true companion
- You have no right to condemn
each other. Romans 14.4-12

- You can hold different views, because the Kingdom isn't about food. 14.17-20
- Strive to work for the building of your brother. 15.2-6