

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹³Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. ¹⁴I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. ¹⁵For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. ¹⁶Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

¹⁹So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. ²⁰Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. ²¹It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles. ²²The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. ²³But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

(Romans 14:13-23)

Accept One Another

Romans 14:1-15:13

Accept One Another

1. Accept one another without judging (14:1-12)
2. Accept one another without hindering (14:13-23)

Application Principle:

- Behaviors that are permitted in the Bible but that not all Christians have "the faith" to practice (very clear categories of the "strong" and the "weak")

Walking in Love (with the “weak”)

1. The Reality of Clean and Unclean

- Paul knows with certainty that no food is inherently defiled or prohibited for Christians

¹⁸ And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (*Thus He* declared all foods clean.) (Mark 7:18-19)

¹⁴ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.” ¹⁵ Again a voice *came* to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unclean.” (Acts 10:15)

²⁵ Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience’ sake; ²⁶ FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.
(1 Corinthians 10:25-26)

⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; ⁵ for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer. (1 Timothy 4:4-5)

Walking in Love (with the “weak”)

1. The Reality of Clean and Unclean

- Paul knows with certainty that no food is inherently defiled or prohibited for Christians
- “Clean” food becomes subjectively “unclean” if the person eating thinks it is still unclean

Walking in Love (with the “weak”)

2. The Reality of Spiritual Harm

- the weak brother being led into “sin” – a deliberate violation of his conscience when he is led to do what he thinks is wrong
- by insisting on their freedom in these matters, the strong may induce the weak to sin and thereby violate the central demand of love

Walking in Love (with the “weak”)

- Follow the example of Christ’s sacrificial love

“and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:2)