## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

## Accept One Another

Romans 14:1-15:13

#### 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") <sup>13</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>14</sup> I 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. <sup>15</sup> For 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. <sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> For he who in this *way* serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

<sup>19</sup> So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. <sup>20</sup> Do 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. <sup>21</sup> It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles. <sup>22</sup> The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

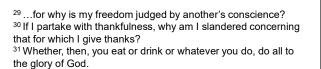
(Romans 14:13-23)

## Reality of Spiritual Harm

- 1. Causing the weak to "stumble"
  - if the weak brother is led to do what he thinks is wrong, it is "sin"
  - by insisting on their freedom in these matters, the strong may induce the weak to "sin"

## Reality of Spiritual Harm

- 2. Spiritual harm vs. taking offence
  - being led to stumble ("sin") is not the same things as feeling offended at another's behavior
  - taking offense usually reveals a wrong, judgmental attitude on the part of the weak



(1 Corinthians 10:29-31)

#### **Kingdom Essentials**

- > What does "kingdom of God" mean?
  - the present saving reign of God through Christ over His redeemed people by the power of the Spirit
  - the church is the present earthly representation and manifestation of this kingdom

#### **Kingdom Essentials**

- > What are the essential attributes of the kingdom?
  - 1) Righteousness: Spirit-produced, morally upright behavior (see contrast, 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21)

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

<sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

(Galatians 5:19-21)

# Kingdom Essentials

- > What are the essential attributes of the kingdom?
  - 1) Righteousness: Spirit-produced, morally upright behavior (see contrast, 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21)
  - 2) *Peace:* harmony and mutual support which is the product of our supernatural unity in Christ
  - *3) Joy:* not begrudging servitude but an unshakable delight in God and hope in His promises