

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”)

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

¹⁹ So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles. ²² The faith which you have, have as your own conviction 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 *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

²⁹ ...for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(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)

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ 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)

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ 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