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22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placeritachurch.com
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Loving Your Brother is Giving Up Your Liberty

Romans 14:13-23

I. Love and Do Not Destroy Your Brother (vv. 13-15)

- A. Do not _____ judgment on a brother (v. 13a)
[1 Cor. 8:8; Rom. 14:10-12]
- B. Do not _____ a stumbling block in the way of a brother (vv. 13b-14) [Eph. 5:18; 1 Tim. 5:23; Jn. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:23; Acts 10:15]
- C. Do not _____ grief in the heart of a brother (v. 15)
[Mk. 10:22; 1 Thes. 4:13; Eph. 4:30; Matt. 10:28; Jn. 3:16]

II. Let Not Your Freedoms Lead to Evil (vv. 16-19)

- A. Taking a freedom too far could be spoken of as _____ (v. 16)
[1 Cor. 10:25-30]
- B. Fighting for righteousness, peace, and joy are _____ important than liberties (v. 17) [Rom. 3:22; 1 Tim. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; Rom. 12:10-13; Gal. 5:22-23]
- C. Serving Christ and pursuing peace is building _____ your brother (vv. 18-19) [Phil. 2:15; Rom. 15:1-2]

III. Let Go of Your Liberties If They are Causing Your Brother to Stumble (vv. 20-21)

- A. Don't _____ God's work in the weaker brother (v. 20)
[Acts 10:15; 1 Tim. 4:4-5; Titus 1:15; 1 Cor. 8:9]
- B. Don't _____ on doing anything that causes your brother to stumble (v. 21) [1 Cor. 8:13]

IV. Live Out Your Faith Between You and God (vv. 22-23)

- A. The _____ brother should live a life above reproach (v. 22)
[Gal. 5:13; 1 Pet. 2:16]
- B. The _____ brother should never eat if it is not from faith (v. 23) [1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 9:14]

TAKE HOME

- How can you ***know*** whether or not you are putting a stumbling block in front of another?
- Have you ever ***practiced*** a liberty that after further evaluation, you saw how it could be spoken of as evil?
- Would you be ***willing*** to never practice a liberty again in the presence of a brother if you knew it hurt his conscience?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Romans 14:13. Have you ever passed judgment on another person about Christian liberties? How could you encourage someone to decide not to put a stumbling block or a hindrance in the way of a brother? (1 Cor. 8:8; Rom. 14:10-12)

2. Read Romans 14:14. Is there any such thing as unclean food or drink? Why is this so confusing in so many cultures? (Eph. 5:18; 1 Tim. 5:23; Jn. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:23; Acts 10:15)

3. Read Romans 14:15. What does the word “grieved” mean in this verse? How can you walk in love as the stronger brother? What does the word “destroy” mean in this verse? (Mk. 10:22; 1 Thes. 4:13; Eph. 4:30; Matt. 10:28; Jn. 3:16)

4. Read Romans 14:16. Can you give an example of how what you regard as good, could be spoken of as evil?

5. Read Romans 14:17-19. What is the kingdom of God about? How can we pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building? (Rom. 3:22; 1 Tim. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; Rom. 12:10-13; Gal. 5:22-23)

6. Read Romans 14:20-21. Is eating food and drinking wine worth destroying the work of God in your brother? (1 Tim. 4:4-5; Titus 1:15; 1 Cor. 8:9)

7. Read Romans 14:22-23. What is the challenge to the stronger brother? What is the challenge to the weaker brother? Which one are you?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live differently in exercising or abstaining from certain Christian liberties after studying this passage?

“It is a thousand times better to refrain from meat or wine or anything else than to offend a brother or cause him to decline spiritually. Giving up our legitimate rights is a small price to pay for the care of one who is weak.”

- William McDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*