

**Series "How Great A Salvation"
"Walking In Love"
Romans 14:13-23
Study-40**

God's plan and design is that we work together. **Romans 14:19**

Division In The Church Of Rome - There were issues over:

1. Food & Drink. 2. Observing Days

There were 2 classes of Christians spoken about in **Romans 14**

1. Weak in Faith 2. Strong in Faith

Romans 12:1-21 Christian Life As A Sacrifice To God:

Romans 13:1-14 Christian Life In Public Duty:

Romans 14:1-15:13 Christian Freedom And Love: (Large section, Problem)

Romans 14:1-12 Acceptance: The Weak – The believer is sometimes the biggest bully in the fellowship.

Romans 14:13-23 Walking In Love: Paul now speaks to **The Strong** – instructs them that they need to temper their freedom through love.

Romans 15:1-13 What Would Jesus Do?

Thought Of Our Passage: "Christ Died To Save Us So Be Willing To Sacrifice Some Rights To Prevent A Brother From Going Wrong"

1. Verses 13-15 Don't Stumble Others:

2. Verses 16-18 Live As Citizens Of Heaven:

3. Verses 19-21 Pursue Mutual Edification:

4. Verses 22-23 Faith & Conviction Go Together:

1. Verses 13-15 Don't Stumble Others:

Romans 14:13 Therefore

When we see this word, ask why is it there?

Romans 14:12 We as Christians will each stand before God our master and answer for ourselves.

If we would stop with **Romans 14:12**, we would think that God would just want us to leave one another alone.

let us not judge – "*criticize, to decide*" **one another anymore**, God will judge the questions of our hearts on that day.

but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. We are not to hurt others.

obstacle – offense, *"something placed deliberately out so that someone could fall"*

or a stumbling block *skan'-dal-on ("scandal"); occasion to fall.*
This is because of carelessness.

obstacle or a stumbling block 3 times: Verses 13,20,21 results in others falling – **Verse 15** "is hurt" **Verses 15, 20** "destroyed, or tear down" **Verse 23** "condemned" (weak start to practice what they believe is wrong, and their peace, fellowship with God is broken, they have sinned)

Romans 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; speaking about non-essentials that are not clearly spoken about in Scripture. **Mark 7:14-19, 20-23; Acts 10:9-16; 1 Corinthians 10:25-26; Titus 1:15**

to him That is the key! Violate a conscience in small and it will lead to big.

Romans 14:15 For if because of food (Meat) your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love.

Meat that was sacrificed to idols that was inexpensive. There were those that looked at it as being evil.

The idea is flaunting our liberty! Deliberately shocking a weaker brother. This is unheard of by Paul. **you are no longer walking according to love.**

Do not destroy (Can't destroy a Christian, *"but present tense be destroying him"* - moral disaster)

with your food him for whom Christ died. Here you have something that is temporal versus something that is eternal.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3, 9-13

2. Verses 16-18 Live As Citizens Of Heaven:

Romans 14:16 Therefore focusing on the **Eternal** not merely the **Externals**, putting love before personal freedoms and desires.

do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

That liberty that can be enjoyed if it is OK before God. If that liberty is used to offend and hurt others it then becomes evil.

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,
You would think with some people that is what it is! **(Food is a means to an end, not an end in itself)**

Matthew 6:25

Christianity means putting others first and self, last. **Philippians 2:4**

but righteousness

That is our standing before God. Our righteousness comes from God in response to our personal faith in Him.

Psalms 42:1-2; Matthew 5:6

and peace - *"to bind together that which was separated"*

There are 2 different forms of peace that the Bible speaks of.

1. Peace with God – That when we come to God in humility, confessing our sins and repenting of them. Turning to God and receiving forgiveness. **Colossians 1:20**

2. Peace of God – While we walk with God we can experience His peace. **Philippians 4:7**

and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Not to be confused with happiness. **Joy** comes as a byproduct of the right relationship with God. It is the Holy Spirit that places that joy in our hearts.

Galatians 5:22-23

Romans 14:18 For he who in this way serves Christ

It is serving God Spiritually. It is not just eating and drinking and externals.

is acceptable to God

It is the spiritual that God is looking for! **Romans 12:1-2**

and approved by men. *This is a general statement.*

3. Verses 19-21 Pursue Mutual Edification:

Romans 14:19 So then We are to focus on the spiritual, which is eternal, not earthly which is temporal.

we pursue the things which make for peace

Sometimes this is just forgoing what we would like to do so that we can have peace.

and the building up of one another. The idea of the Church being like a wall that needs to be worked on. That we are building by adding to it, not taking it down.

**The Stronger Needs To Grow In – Love
The Weaker Needs To Grow In - Knowledge**

N.L.T. Philippians 2:2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.

3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.

4 Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.

Romans 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. Paul is here dealing with the peril and the abuse of Christian freedom.

All things indeed are clean, Non-Essentials are not wrong!

but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

Liberty to enjoy but when it hurts another it becomes evil.

Romans 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine,

Notice the food and wine.

or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

This speaks of willingly letting our freedoms go so that we don't tear down what God is doing.

4. Verses 22-23 Faith & Conviction Go Together:

Romans 14:22 faith which you have, – *"firm intelligent conviction on that which God has said, what the Word of God declares"*

Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

That our hearts should line up with our actions.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; This is the Christian that is really not convinced

and whatever is not from faith is sin. Our convictions determine what is right and wrong in non-essentials. **James 4:17**

Application:

- 1.** To Insist On Our Temporal Liberties At The Expense Of The Eternal Is Not Only Failing To See The Proper Perspective But It Is Selfishness.
- 2.** We Need To Remember That Our Rights Are Far Less Important Than Our Obligations.