



Right for Me?

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

With "disputable matters" (vs.1), how can I know what is "right" or "wrong" for me? Paul gives us four tests to help guild our conscience.

1. The Word Test – Do I Find It in God's Word?

"...each one should be fully convinced..." - Vs.5

2. The Lordship Test - Does It Highlight God's Ownership & Authority?

"...we live to the Lord..." - Vs.8

3. The Worship Test – Does It Display God's Worth?

"...in honor of the Lord..." - Vs. 6

4. The Relationship Test – Does It Deepen My Relationship with God?

"...since he gives thanks to God" – Vs.6

Small Group Discussion Guide

Right for Me?

Romans 14:5-12

The Big Idea

There are some areas of life (what Paul calls “disputable matters” in verse 1) where each Christian must prayerfully assess whether something is right or wrong *for them*. Our passage gives us tests to help us figure this out.

Getting Started

Read Romans 14:1–12 and pray.

Can you be a good Christian and...? Share with the group an area where you personally changed your mind from “no” to “yes.”

Digging Deeper

The Word Test

- What is this test, and where do you see it suggested in our passage?
- We need this test because our conscience is like a phone’s ‘autocorrect’ feature. Explain that illustration.
- What does it look like to apply this test to a “disputable matter”?

The Lordship Test

- What is this test, and where do you find it in our passage?
- According to 1 Corinthians 10:25-30, what were the “strong” Christians getting right?
- According to 1 Corinthians 6:12, what were they getting wrong?

- What are some good or neutral things you've struggled with having more power over you than they should?

The Worship Test

- What is this test, and where do you find it in this passage?
- Why is the question “Is it a sin?” too low of a bar for determining what is right for us?
- Paul restates this test in 1 Corinthians 10:31. Read that passage and answer again: What is the worship test?

The Relationship Test

- What is this test, and where do you find it in this passage?
- All of creation—and all morally permissible liberties—are special gifts from God with a particular design, like a tandem bike. What was the illustration and lesson from Sunday?
- What are some warning signs that you’re “riding the tandem alone”?

Making It Real

This week, identify one “gray area” you’re currently navigating. Apply all four tests together. What do you think faithful obedience looks like for you right now? Also consider one concrete practice you could adopt this week to keep permissible things from becoming “lords” (limits, accountability, gratitude, fasting, replacing habits, etc.).

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org