



Liberty and Responsibility

Romans 14:13-23

To better understand today's passage (Romans 14:13–23), it helps to reflect on the overall purpose of chapter 14. Paul is instructing the Roman Christians on how to handle disagreements over matters of personal preference. Because the church included both Jewish and Gentile believers, conflict could easily arise over differing opinions and practices. Some Jewish Christians were considered “weak in faith” because they had not yet fully grasped their freedom from certain Jewish customs.

Last week, we were reminded that we live under the Lordship of Christ and in light of the judgment seat of Christ. With that perspective, we are called to prioritize building up our fellow believers. This means being willing to set aside some of our personal freedoms and preferences if exercising them might cause others to stumble in their walk with God. In a culture often marked by self-centeredness, Paul emphasizes that Christian liberty must be practiced with responsibility, love, and a commitment to strengthening others in the faith.

We should all ask the question, “Is my life a stumbling block or steppingstone for others?”

Key Verse 19: So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

1. Christian liberty

- The neutrality of things (verses 14, 20)
- The spirituality of Christianity (verse 17)
- The individuality of convictions (verse 22)



2. Christian responsibility.

- Love my brother (verse 15)
- Lift my brother (verse 19)
- Lead my brother (verse 21)

So, how can you build up others this week? Two items needed for balance: self-control, love for others.

(Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:10; Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 12:25; 1 John 3:18)