

Practical Christian Living

Romans 14: 1-12

November 22, 2020

Introduction: Paul moves now to teaching on the subject of Christian rules for godly living. The introductory proposition is in verse 1: *Accept the one who is weak in the faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.* It is helpful here to begin with consideration of the Christian relationship to the Law.

I. Free From the Law

- A. Human beings were never intended to live in a system consisting of rules and regulations
 - 1. God gave the Law for the express purpose of articulating and exposing our sinfulness
 - 2. Galatians 3: 24 – The Law is a school teacher to bring us to Christ
 - 3. God never expected that we would be able to keep the Law, hence, the system of sacrifice
- B. What does it mean to be free from the Law?
 - 1. Galatians 5: 1 – *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery*
 - 2. Romans 6: 14b – *For you are not under Law but under grace*
 - 3. Romans 7: 4a – *Therefore my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ*
 - 4. Romans 7: 6 – *But now we have been released from the Law. . .so that we serve in newness of the Spirit*
- C. John 8: 36 – *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*
- D. So then, believers have died to the Law
 - 1. The Law has no effect on one who is dead
 - 2. It cannot command obedience; neither does it have jurisdiction
 - 3. The Law has no application or impact to a believer – we are completely free

II. The Christian Weak in the Faith Is Not Free from the Law

- A. Who is the one weak in the faith?
 - 1. He believes Jesus paid for his sins, but not that Jesus' blood covers all sin
 - 2. He believes that he must keep the Law to please God
 - 3. He does not know how to live by/in the Holy Spirit and so works to be godly
- B. How does one weak in the faith live?
 - 1. He creates rules, extrapolated from Law by which to live in order to satisfy the conscience
 - 2. He satisfies his conscience by comparison to other believers who do not share his opinion
- C. He has a fearful spirit
 - 1. He is troubled about what is right or wrong; he is perpetually worried about these things
 - 2. He has a hypersensitive, almost a gloomy and disturbed conscience. . . "a morbid scrupulosity" David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

III. Why Is Legalism so Destructive?

- A. It is dependent upon the flesh not the Spirit
- B. It causes us to live by works not by faith
- C. It sets us up for failure and results in
 - 1. Guilt and condemnation
 - 2. And/or despair (leading to libertinism)
- D. It damages our view of and fellowship with God
- E. The Law actually causes us to sin by our nature of rebellion