

Practical Christian Living

Romans Chapters 12-15

Romans 14:13—15:12 Sunday 12/13/20

INTRO: As we come to the last half of Romans 14, we are introduced to some general principles regarding how to treat one another with respect to the weaker and the stronger believers. The burden lies upon those strong in the faith, because those who are weaker, by definition, are bound by rules and traditions and are unable at this stage in their spiritual life to live in freedom without a sense of guilt and sin. We are called to live in peace with one another with neither judgment nor contempt. The ones strong in the faith are to encourage the weaker believers to grow in liberty with gentleness and kindness while patiently awaiting their growth. The ones strong in the faith are encouraged not to flaunt their liberty and thus cause harm to the weaker.

I. Let Us Not Judge One Another (14:13-18)

- A. Determine this: not to put a stumbling block in another believer's way
- B. Nothing is unclean of itself, but to the one who believes it to be unclean, to him it is unclean
- C. If you cause your fellow believer hurt by your liberty, you are no longer walking in love
- D. Do not let your liberty be spoken of as evil, for the Kingdom of God is not about your freedom, but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit

II. Pursue Things That Make For Peace And The Building Up Of One Another

- A. God desires most that we live in peace and harmony
Ephesians 4:1-6 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
- B. While all things are clean, they are evil for the one who eats or drinks and causes a fellow believer to stumble
- C. If you are strong in the faith, have your liberty as your own conviction before God, do not condemn yourself by what you approve
- D. If you are weak in the faith, do not do anything before God that you feel is wrong (without faith)
- E. **WHATEVER IS NOT FROM FAITH IS SIN (V.23b)**

III. The Strong Are Called To Bear The Weaknesses Of Those Who Are Immature In The Faith

- A. We are not to please ourselves, but to please our neighbor:
For his good and his edification
- B. We are to reflect the attitude of Christ, Who did not please Himself, but delivered Himself up for us all
(Phi 2:1-8 NAU) Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- C. Accept one another just as Christ accepted us to the glory of God
 1. He accepts us just as we are, without condemnation
 2. He seeks to exhort and encourage us to grow up and live by the Holy Spirit
 3. But He waits patiently for us to mature, as the Holy Spirit works within us to reproduce His character