

Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Mark Your Observations

Record Observations & Questions

Repeated
Alike
Different
Accentuated
Related
Think Context!

Romans 14:13-23

- 13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer,
 but rather decide never to put a
 stumbling block
 or hindrance
 in the way of a brother.
- 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself,
 but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.
- 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat,
 you are no longer walking in love.
 By what you eat,
 do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.
- 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.
- 17 For the kingdom of God is
 not a matter of eating and drinking
 but of righteousness
 and peace
 and joy
 in the Holy Spirit.
- 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.
- 19 So then let us pursue what makes
 for peace
 and for mutual upbuilding.
- 20 Do not,
 for the sake of food,
 destroy the work of God.
 Everything is indeed clean,
 but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble
 by what he eats.
- 21 It is good not to
 eat meat
 or drink wine
 or do anything
 that causes your brother to stumble.
- 22 The faith that you have,
 keep between yourself and God.
 Blessed is the one who has no reason
 to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.
- 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats,
 because the eating is not from faith.
 For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

Review

As a demonstration of love, accept each other, differences and all, in Christ.

Introduction



Think about it



Talk about it

Romans 14:13 Principle stated

The Issue: Judging others

Point: Don't cause offense

Romans 14:14-21 Practice stated

The Issue: Be concerned for the weak

Point: Seek to build up not tear down

Romans 14:22-23 Principle summarized

The Issue: Act in faith

Point: Don't flaunt your faith

Summary of Key Issue: In issues over differing opinions

Don't judge (14:13)

Don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (14:13, 20-21)

Don't sacrifice an individual over your rights (14:15)

Principle: (14:19)

Pursue the things which make for peace

Building up one another

Be fully convinced of the motivation and merit of your actions (14:22)

Be willing to give up rights out of love for others

Key Points

Out of love and humility, we should seek the greater good of others to the glory of God

Key Principles

So what do we do if we are concerned about the weak so as not to cause them to stumble?

1. **Accept** them without judging them (Romans 14:1, 13; 15:7).
2. **Qualify:** Will this action cause my brother or sister distress? Or are they trying to influence me with their preferences?
3. **Abstain:** If in fact it will cause them to stumble, then I must refrain (14:13, 21). My priority is not simply to do what I know to be allowable, but what is beneficial to our brother or sister in the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23). A warning, if I persist in expressing my liberty, it is I who is in sin (1 Corinthians 8:11-12).
4. **Support** the weaker Christian. Uphold them with love and work at edifying them (15:1-2). Follow the example of our selfless minister Jesus Christ.
5. **Teach** the weaker brother or sister making sure you fully understand and can convey the truth to him or her.



What do we learn
About God?

God can deal with diversity



Act on it

Is there ever a time when should we not give way to the desires of the "weak?"

What if they prefer hymns to choruses?

Is this a stumbling block or a preference?

The key questions are: What is my attitude? Do I value others more than my comfort?