

Accepting One Another

Romans 14

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- Attitude Toward God, Brethren, Enemies, Government, Neighbors

1. Accepting One Another in Liberty – Romans 14:1-12

- Not: what should we do if we disagree but when. 1-4 eating meat; 5-9 special days.
- 1: the faith: may be in reference to being lacking in the Scripture or a strong personal conviction regarding this subject. *Don't invite the weaker in just to pass judgment on him.*
- 2: not talking about health reasons. G unaware offered to idols; NLT sensitive conscience
- 3: regard w/ contempt: to despise utterly, lit. to treat another as nobody. Judge: determine
- 4: household servant; servant of Lord will stand
- 5: G also had special days. J kept Sabbath all their lives, now 'just another day,' hard; Roper: "if Mon-Sat are not 'holy days' to us, it is unlikely Sun will be."
- 6: doing it for the Lord's benefit, not his own. Some may eat meat, others veg. only, both give God thanks for the food.
- 7-8: cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of humanity; everything we do is before God
- 9: since the Lord has accepted a bro. as His own, why are you judging him?
- 10: who are you to judge? P: Ac. 18:12 Gallio
- 11: Isa. 45: a time will come when everyone will bow before God
- 12: we don't give accounts to others but to God & if we are guilty of judging, we will have to give account for that – Matt. 7:12

2. Accepting One Another in Love – Romans 14:13-18

- Many congregational disputes are often petty in categories of procedure [how should we carry this out?], precedent [ever done this before?], prestige [who will get credit?]
- 13: don't judge one another anymore but judge this rather – ourselves. Obstacle: dash his foot; stumbling block: scandal, scandalous
- 14: "absolutely no doubt in my mind." If conscience tells you it is wrong, to you it **is**.

- 15: why put stumbling block? No longer walking in love. Flaunting freedom might drive away weaker brother
- 16: spoken evil of: lit. be blasphemed. Concerned with affecting the cause of Christ. Will it help/hinder the growth of the church?
- 17: church is not eating a meal but it is a concern for all!
- 18: “in this way” sums 1-17; serving Christ by behaving as Christ directed – we will be acceptable to God.

3. Accepting One Another in Peace – Romans 14:19-23

- 19: then: therefore in GK v. 16; pursue: active. What? Things which make for peace and build others up, for strong & weak. Key
- 20: tear down: to loose, dissolve, sever, break, demolish, emp. by adding ‘completely’. NIV ‘all food is clean’
- 21: not good to do anything by which brother stumbles. 1 Cor. 8:13 – never eat meat again
- 22: happy: blessed, Matt. 5:3-11. God showers blessings on those who are more concerned about bro/sis in Christ than themselves.
- 23: essential not to violate conscience; not proposing “let your conscience be your guide,” authority = Bible. Conscience: cannot make a wrong thing right, can make right wrong

Lessons:

1. We have many liberties as Christians. However, we cannot do whatever we want to do. We should refrain at all times to not try to offend our brethren.
2. Sometimes when there are disagreements over things in the church, it is over petty things. We should always be concerned with doing what God has commanded in His Word, our final authority. Period.
3. We cannot always let our conscience be our guides. Some people have let their conscience be seared with a hot iron, 1 Tim. 4:2. A conscience can be retrained.

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