

Christian Liberty vs. Christian Love

Romans 14

*On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. **Acts 20:7***

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **Acts 2:46***

Theological Absolutes and Non-negotiable Biblical Truths *(examples)*

- Infallibility of Scripture
- Historical Creation of Man
- Deity of Christ, His virgin birth
- Jesus' Miracles, resurrection from death
- Atoning, substitutional death for sin

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the

beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

1 John 2:7

**We do not judge people,
God's Word has already made the
judgment.**

**Two examples from the early
church where Paul encouraged
practicing liberty**

1. Eating certain types of meat

One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. Romans 14:2

"Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.' "

Matthew 15:10-11

2. Observing special days

Do's and Don'ts in practicing Christian freedom.

1. Do accept those who disagree with you. Don't judge them.

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Romans 14:1

*Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. **Romans 14:4***

2. Do expect differences. Don't be threatened by them.

3. Do restrict your freedom. Don't flaunt it.

*Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. **Romans 14:13***

If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

Romans 14:15

Are you being a “stumbling block?”

- 1. Is it really a stumbling block? Or, are they just being critical?**
- 2. How old is that person in the faith?**

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:18, 21

It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

Romans 14:21

4. Do promote harmony.

Don't force the issue.

Do's and Don'ts in practicing Christian freedom.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat

*anything that causes someone else to stumble. **Romans 14:19***

It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

Romans 14:21

*Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **2 Timothy 2:23-24***

Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

Romans 14:22

When you disagree, choose your words carefully.

Make every effort to do what leads to peace.

5. Do obey your conscience.

Don't violate it

Do's and Don'ts in practicing Christian freedom.

*But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. **Romans 14:23***

You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Romans 14:10

*It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Romans 14:11-12***

*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
Isaiah 64:6*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9***