



Talk it Over

PASTOR LYLE - ROMANS 14-15 II – 5/17/26

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 14 (NLT)

13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. 14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. 17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. 20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. 22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

START TALKING

Any special plans this summer?

START DISCUSSING

READ ROMANS 14:13-23

A NEEDED FAMILY REMINDER

Paul speaks boldly in Romans 14 because these kinds of issues are dangerous in church life. They may not be salvation issues, but they can still damage unity. Pastor Lyle mentioned three levels of issues.

Level One - Essential gospel issues

Level Two - Clear biblical and moral issues

Level Three - Disputable matters

Why do non-essential issues sometimes create major conflict?

Why do believers often feel more strongly about disputed matters than they should?

Love and Liberty

Paul says that if, because of your food, your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love.

Why is love the controlling principle in this passage?

What does it mean for love to limit liberty?

Why do we sometimes defend our freedom more than we protect our brother?

DANGER

Paul says not to put a stumbling block or obstacle in a brother's or sister's way.

Why is it possible to be technically "right" and still spiritually careless?

Have you ever seen someone pressured into violating conscience in the name of freedom?

DAMAGE

The sermon emphasized that what begins as carelessness can become real harm and cause damage.

How can a stronger believer hurt a weaker one without intending to?

Why is conscience such a serious issue?

Why should we be careful not to train ourselves or others to ignore conscience?

DESTROY

Paul uses very strong language: do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

Why does Paul raise the stakes this high?

What does it show about the value of another believer?

How does remembering "Christ died for this person" change the tone of disagreement?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are you tempted to flaunt liberty instead of walking in love?

Are you willing to give up a freedom for the sake of another?