

ROMANS



Romans 14:13-23

Doing life with the weak and strong



Our 3 Questions

1.What does the text say?

- **Authorial intent to the intended audience.**

2.What does the text mean?

- **The timeless theological truth.**

3.How does this apply today?

- **What we ought to do with/because of this truth.**

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.

Romans 14:13-23

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.

Romans 14:13-23

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.

Romans 14:13-23

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.

Romans 14:13-23

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.

Preview

- **13a – Review of the circumstance**
- **13b, 15b, 20-21 – Decide not to cause others to stumble**
- **14, 20b, 22-23 – Sins of conscience**
 - **16 – Not allowing good for evil**
- **17-19 – Determine to build the Church**
- **Application**

Context

¹³ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer

- **Disagreements In the Church**
- **Over opinions/disputable matters**
 - **Dietary Restrictions & holidays**
- **“Weak” – add moral duty**
- **“Strong” – Recognize their freedom**
- **Paul presses for unity and tells them to stop judging and despising**

Romans 14:13, 15, 20, 21

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.

^{15b} By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

Romans 14:13, 15, 20, 21

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.

Romans 14:13

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.

Make the determination to never cause another to stumble.

Romans 14:15

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.

Exercising legitimate freedoms at the expense of others is not loving.

13:9-10

Romans 14:15

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.

Do not sell for food what is bought with blood.

Romans 14:20-21

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.

**Do not tear down what God is building.
Matthew 16:28, 1 Peter 2:1-12**

Matthew 18:5-7

⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:5-7

⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!





Romans 14:14, 20b, 22, 23

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.

^{20b} Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

Romans 14:14, 20b, 22, 23

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.

Romans 14:14

Eating meat is not intrinsically sinful.

Mark 7:19

Eating meat, for some, is sinful.

Anything that conflicts with faith is sin.

Violating conscience can violate the relationship.

1 Corinthians 4:2-5

² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

1 Corinthians 4:2-5

⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

**Your conscience is not
your judge,**

**but your judge knows
your conscience.**

Romans 14:16

¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

If the result of exercising legitimate freedoms has evil results, some could consider that “good” thing to be evil.

Romans 14:17-19

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.

Romans 14:17-19

- **Eating and drinking is not what characterizes the Church**
- **Righteousness, peace, and joy**
- **Serve Christ by building His Church and leveraging your freedoms to produce these ends.**

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Review

13b, 15b, 20-21

- **Decide not to cause others to stumble**

14, 20b, 22-23

- **Sin can be grieving one's conscience**

16-19

- **Decide to build the Church**
 - **Foregoing not fighting for your rights**

Applications

- Eating
- Drinking
- Content consumption
 - Movies, Authors, Music
- Language
 - Profanity
 - Sarcasm
- Dress and social engagement

Questions

- Did anything jump out to you from the text or the message?
- Is the concept of not causing others to stumble something that you've wrestled with before? What did that look like?
 - How would you respond to someone that says this text sounds like "blaming the victim"?
 - Is your sin still your responsibility, if someone else is the source of temptation?
- Are there people in your life that have different convictions than you do? How do you live around them? Are there things you should change?