

Gospel Transformed Decision Making
November 12, 2023

Introduction:

Text: Romans 13:8-15:7

Big Idea: Unity not sameness is what Jesus prayed for in John 17. **Has the prayer of Jesus changed how you do relationships? "YES" OR "NO"**

#1- Gospel transformed decisions have a _____ about them (13:8-14)

- Transformed decisions are governed by _____ (13:8-10)
- Transformed decisions value _____ and the _____ (13:11-14)

**"In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials,
liberty; in all things,
charity."
–Early church leader**

#2- Gospel transformed decision-making causes a believer to _____ in not out (14:1-5a)

- _____ the weak in faith (1a)
 - Acceptance of the weak, immature creates room for growth to continue; rejections stunts growth.
 - Avoid quarreling over _____ (1b)
 - **Three Biblical Categories**
 - Things that are _____.
 - Things that are _____.
 - Things that are _____ matters (Issues of freedom, preference & opinion)
 - Understand the issues (2-5)

#3- Follow Paul's Instruction (14:3-23)*

1. Be _____ with those who don't see things as you see them (3)
2. Stop _____ God's servants as if they are accountable to you (4)
3. _____ your conscience! (5)
4. Assume that others are partaking or refraining for the glory of God (6–9)
5. Do not judge each other in these matters because we will all someday stand before the judgment seat of God (10–12)
6. Your freedom to eat meat is correct, but _____ your brother or sisters spiritual well-being over your freedom (13-15)
7. Disagreements about eating and drinking are not important in the kingdom of God; building each other up in righteousness, peace, and joy is the important thing (16–21)
8. If you have freedom, don't flaunt it; if you are strict, don't expect others to be strict like you (Rom. 14:22a)
9. A person who lives according to their conscience is _____ (Rom. 14:22b–23)

#4- Treasure people like Jesus does (15:1-7)

Truth into Action: - Questions to ask in making God-honoring decisions

- What does the Bible say?
 - If there is a clear command in Scripture, there should be unity.
 - It applies to everyone.
- What does conscience say?

- If the Bible does not address it, then it is a matter of conscience.
- It is personal.
- What about my opinions?
 - Apply wisdom and walk humbly in love.

Connect Card:

- **Does the principle of love govern your decision making?**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: What is your typical response to those you disagree with?

1. How should a fellow believer who is weak in the faith be treated? (14:1)
2. What will each person do when standing before God’s judgment seat? (14:12)
3. What should we do instead of judging fellow Christians? (14:13)
4. What was Paul’s personal belief about unclean foods? (14:14)
5. What is the true focus of the kingdom of God? (14:17-18)
6. How should concern for other believers affect our personal choices? (14:21)
7. Based upon the 9 principles given in the sermon, how will you make decisions going forward since the gospel is transforming you?

CLOSING PRAYER: Jesus, you came into our world to make a way for peace. I love you and I want to grow in my ability to become a peace maker. Help me to apply the truth I learned from this sermon. For the glory of God and my own good. Amen!

Works consulted:

Romans for You, Tim Keller

Romans – Galatians, Yarbrough

Romans, Kent

Romans, RC Sproul

*<https://www.9marks.org/article/romans-14/>