

Romans 14:13-23

For the week of March 17, 2024

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

This section addresses the strong, who should be leading the way to establishing unity in the church by opening themselves up to the "weaker."

- A Judging (v. 13a)
- B Stumbling block (v. 13b)
- C Clean/unclean (v. 14)
- D Destroying (v. 15)
- E Peace and unity (vv. 16–18)
- E' Peace and unity (v. 19)
- D' Destroying (v. 20a)
- C' Clean/unclean (v. 20b)
- B' Stumbling block (v. 21)
- A' Judging (vv. 22–23)

Figure 5. Chiastic structure (words repeated in reverse order) **of Romans 14:13–23 (based on Dunn 1988b:816)**¹

Observation (vs. 13)

3. What is Paul saying in this verse?

Interpretation

4. How can a believer be a stumbling block to another believer if they feel their conviction is right? (see also I Cor 8:13)
5. Is this verse more about a specific action or attitude? Why or why not?

¹ Grant R. Osborne, *Romans*, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 365–366.

Application

6. Have you ever allowed a non-essential issue to create division between you and a fellow believer? Why or why not?

7. If so, how was it resolved?

Observation (vs. 14-17)

8. What concern is Paul addressing within the Roman church in these verses?

Interpretation

9. How can a believer “destroy the one for whom Christ died”?
(see also I Cor 8:11-12; Rom 14:20)

10. What is verse 17 saying?

Application

11. Are you able to show the love of Christ to fellow believers when non-essential convictions do not align? Why or why not?

Observation (vs. 18-19)

12. What is Paul conveying in these verses?
(see also 2 Cor 8:21; Psalm 34:14; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 14:12)

Interpretation

13. How is the believer acceptable to God and approved by men when serving Christ in this way? (vs 18)

14. How is the believer to pursue peace and mutual upbuilding?

Application

15. How does criticism undermine “upbuilding?” How do you prevent this in your walk with Christ?

Observation (vs. 20-23)

16. What is Paul reiterating to the Roman church?

Interpretation

17. What is Paul's purpose in restating what was said in these verses?

18. What is meant in verse 22?

19. What is meant in verse 23?

Application

20. Utilizing the 4 D's of church issues (stated in the sermon on Romans 14:1-12), how would you categorize which issues that you would *die for*, *divide for*, *debate for*, and *decide for*? Why?

Die for –

Divide for –

Debate for –

Decide for –