

Rights Versus Responsibilities

1 Corinthians 8:8-13

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Versus
- When it comes to the Christian community - one issue that constantly causes conflict in every fellowship of faith...
- ...is created by the balance we try to achieve - between individual rights - and corporate responsibility.
- And while it's true that every Christian has received the right - to develop personal convictions according to our relationship with Christ Jesus...
- ...it's also true that we've been called to become believers who submit to those who are here in our Christian congregation.
- And with this as the goal - conflict is inevitable - as our individual convictions - clash with our corporate connection...
- ...with other Christians who have embraced different convictions about many different things.
- And it's for this reason that Paul took the time to address the balance - between our rights - and our responsibilities.

II. Outline

● Points

- Rights?
- Here in our text today - - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

- ...our rights as born again believers - must be reigned in - by our responsibilities - as the servant of our Savior.
- And as we study these scriptures - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...believers don't have the right to stumble others
 2. ...believers don't have the right to mislead others
 3. ...believers don't have the right to wound others
- With this as our outline let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 8...
 - ...where we find Paul - challenging the Christians in Corinth - about their rights - and responsibilities.

III. Stumble

● Set up

- Stumble?
- As we make our way to the 8th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...it was back in the beginning of this chapter - where Paul began to address a question previously posed by the Christians in Corinth.
- They specifically wanted to know about the prohibitions pertaining to things offered to idols.
- And while Paul prefaced his response - by addressing those who were dividing with each other over this issue...
- ...it's here in the second half of this chapter - where he encouraged those who felt the freedom to eat meats offered to idols...

- ...to consider how their liberty - could cause others to stumble.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 8 - look with me beginning there at verse 8 - where he declared...

● Text

1Co 8:8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

1Co 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

1Co 8:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

1Co 8:11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

1Co 8:12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

• Food

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth - to understand that...
- ...those who were dividing with one another - over the controversial issue of eating meats offered to idols...
- ...were failing to realize that - the food we eat does NOT commend us to God.
- At the same time - I should also point out that the food we eat does NOT CONDEMN us in the eyes of God.
- And that's great news - especially as we consider all of the sugary snacks that we just consumed over the holidays.
- But seriously - we can rejoice in knowing that - the food we eat won't commend - nor condemn us before the Lord.

- Defile?

- This was precisely the point that the Lord Jesus was making - in Matthew chapter 15 - it's verse 11 where He declared...

Mat 15:11 "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

- That's right - it's not the food we eat that defiles us - - no instead - it's the sinful words that come out of our mouths.
 - And what this means is that - there is no prohibition for Christians - concerning the foods we eat.
 - This not only includes the dietary restrictions that are listed in the Levitical law...
 - ...and not only that - but - there is no prohibition against eating meats that have been offered to idols.
 - And so - if you find yourself in a Chinese restaurant that has a Buddha shrine - - it's okay to eat the food that they prepare.
- Sanctified
 - I like the way that Paul explained it - in 1st Timothy chapter 4 - it's verses 4 and 5 where he declared...

1Ti 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;
1Ti 4:5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
 - Christian - listen - there is no reason to think that the believer who eats meat that was sacrificed to an idol - is in danger of demonic possession.
 - And that's great news - because - I was recently eating some lamb vindaloo at my favorite Indian restaurant...

- ...and I noticed an idol of Vishnu - on one of the shelves in the restaurant.
- But not to worry - because - I received that meal with thanksgiving - after asking the Lord to bless the food.
- And I can assure you that - those who eat meats offered to idols - won't be corrupted by the consumption of that food.

- Concerns

- At the same time - Paul also encouraged the Christians in Corinth to be careful with our liberty - lest we cause someone else to stumble.
- Let's consider how he put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 8:8 ...food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

1Co 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting a case for the freedom to eat meats offered to idols...
- ...while simultaneously encouraging those who felt like they had this freedom to be careful...
- ...and the reason why is because - there are believers who could end up stumbling back into sin.
- And in order to understand Paul's concerns - I should take a moment to remind you that there were Christians at the church in Corinth...
- ...who were once members of the same cults - where those meats were being offered to idols.

- Past

- Think about that for a moment - there were those at the church in Corinth who had been raised by pagan parents.
- And prior to their conversion to Christ - some of them spent time at the pagan temples - worshipping those false gods.
- This would've included the temple feasts - where the worshippers would eat meats that were offered to idols.
- Then - after the feast was over - the leftover meat would be sold in the marketplace.
- Now - imagine for a moment that you were a former idolater - who showed up to a love feast there at your church...
 - ...only to discover that - someone brought meat - that was used in a sinful celebration at your former cult.
 - Without debate - this could easily cause a new believer to stumble in their faith.
- Right
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to be careful with their so-called - liberty.
- Let's consider how he put it - there in verse 9 - where Paul declared...

1Co 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
- Now - as we consider this word of warning - I should take a moment to point out that...
 - ...the Greek word which was translated - liberty - might be better rendered - right.
 - The same Greek word was used of those who had the right to choose whatever they wanted to do.

- At the same time - this word was used of those who had the permission to engage in certain privileges.
- And there should be no doubt that the Christians there in Corinth had the right to eat meats which were offered to idols.

● Application

- Stumble
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Romans chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 16 - where he declared...

Rom 14:16...do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Rom 14:20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.

Rom 14:21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Rom 14:22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

- According to Paul - the Christian who places their personal rights - above their responsibility to serve our Savior...
- ...could end up causing their brothers and sisters in Christ - to stumble back into sin.
- And it's sad to say that there are many in the church today - who are causing other Christians to stumble...

- ...simply because they value their liberties - over their responsibility to protect the weaker believers.
- And if this sounds like you - then - please hear me when I tell you that — we don't have the right to stumble other believers.

● Transition

- Points
 - Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...
 1. ...while it's true that believers don't have the right to stumble others...
 2. ...it's also true that believers don't have the right to mislead others.
 - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 8...
 - ...look with me - beginning there at verse 10 - where Paul declared...

IV. Mislead

● Text

1Co 8:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

1Co 8:11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

- Scenario
 - Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting another scenario - which includes a Christian - eating in an idol's temple.
 - Imagine for a moment - that your'e a new believer who is living in the city of Corinth.
 - And as you head to the market place to purchase food for your home...

- ...you pass by the pagan temple - where you once worshipped the idol of your false god.
- And it's there in the temple - where you see another believer - sharing a meal with the adherents of your former cult.
- Now - it's possible that the other believer was simply witnessing to the members of that false religious system.
- And yet - Paul still shared his concerns - about the way that this could affect the conscience - of the weaker believer.

- Knowledge

- Let's consider again how Paul put it - there in verse 10 - where he declared...

1Co 8:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

- Here in this verse - we find Paul acknowledging the fact that - some Christian have acquired the divine knowledge...
- ...which helps us to realize that - an idol is nothing in this world - and the reason why is because - there is only One God.
- That being the case - a Christian could enter a pagan temple - during a fleshly festival - and eat the meats offered to idols...
- ...and then walk away without being spiritual affected by the carnal corruption of that festival.
- The reason why is because the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking - but righteousness - peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Conscience

- At the same time - it's also possible that the rights we exercise - could damage the Conscience of another Christian.
- Let's consider again how Paul explained it - there in verse 10 - where he declared...

1Co 8:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

- Now - in order to fully comprehend Paul's concern - I should first take a moment to point out that...
 - ...the word - conscience - was translated from a Greek word - which was used in reference to the moral compass of the soul.
 - Our conscience - which is informed by the law of God - which has been written upon our hearts...
 - ...helps us understand the difference between that which is morally good - and that which is morally bad.
 - Not only that - but - our conscience also prompts us to do what is right - while simultaneously helping us to shun what is wrong.
- Callous
 - It's also important for us to understand that - we can cover our conscience - with a carnal callous.
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - in 1st Timothy chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

1Ti 4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping pastor Timothy to understand that...
- ...the Christians who give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...
- ...will end up searing their own conscience - as with a hot iron.
- In other words - the believer who embraces the false doctrines of demonic deception...
- ...will create a carnal callous over their conscience - resulting in a hardened heart.
- Testimony
- Sadly - I've seen this very scenario play out in the lives of many Christians.
- I've been in full time ministry - since 1996 - - and over the past 30 years...
- ...I've witnessed way too many Christians - allowing the doctrines of demons to create a callous over their conscience.
- And as their hearts continued to harden - their decisions - and their actions became more and more unbiblical.
- What's even worse is that - these backslidden believers will often times lead others astray...
- ...as they attempt to convince others - that they have the right to live for the lusts of their flesh.
- And it's for this reason that Paul warned the Christians in Corinth - about this possible outcome.

- Emboldened

- Let's consider again how Paul explained it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 10 - where he declared...

1Co 8:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

- Now - that word - emboldened - - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of that which is builders who build something.
- The same word was used metaphorically - in reference to a system of instruction or doctrine.
- And in this context - the Greek word rendered - emboldened - was used in an accusative sense...
- ...of those who mislead others - with false doctrines - and sinful instructions.
- Simply put - those who put their rights above their responsibilities - might mislead other believers - back into a life of sin.

- Perish

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians 8 - look with me again - beginning there at verse 10 - where he declared...

1Co 8:10 ...if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

1Co 8:11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

- In other words - the Christian who openly exercises their right - to engage in their so-called liberty...
- ...could end up causing a weaker believer to stumble back into sin.

- And it's sad to say that there are many backslidden believers who end up being disqualified from serving our Savior.
- Not only that - but there are also many who never recover from their state of sinful rebellion...
 - ...and as a result - they turn into carnal Christians - who never actually develop into mature disciples.

- Amplified

- Let's consider how the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verses 10 and 11 - here's how they put it...

1Co 8:10 For if someone sees you, a person having knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, then if he is weak, will he not be encouraged to eat things sacrificed to idols [and violate his own convictions]?

1Co 8:11 For through your knowledge (spiritual maturity) this weak man is ruined [that is, he suffers in his spiritual life], the brother for whom Christ died.

- Christian - listen - the disciple who defends their right - to publicly engage in a liberty that could cause others to stumble...
 - ...might mislead a weaker believer - to think that they also have the freedom to engage in behavior...
 - ...that could cause them to stumble back into a life of sin.
 - And while Paul was specifically referring to right - to eat meats sacrificed to idols...
 - ...this same principle can apply to a long list of liberties.
- List
 - This includes the movies we watch - and the music we listen to.

- This includes the video games we play - and the videos we watch on TikTok - or YouTube.
- This includes the time we spend online - and the time we spend with unbelievers.
- This includes the clothes we wear - and the consumption of alcohol.
- There is an endless list of liberties that we have the right to engage.
 - And yet - we must not forget that - we don't have the right to mislead another believer...
 - ...by causing them to think that they can ignore their convictions - by exercising the same freedoms that we have.
- Convictions
 - Just to be clear - I should take a moment to describe the difference between personal convictions - and Biblical restrictions.
 - I'm sure we're all aware of the fact that - the Bible presents us with many restrictions - which we are called to refrain from.
 - This includes the sin of sexual immorality - and the sin of covetousness - this includes the sin of idolatry - and the sin of drunkenness.
 - Time would fail me to present you with the complete list of sins - that we are prohibited from engaging in.
 - Then there are those things that are permissible - providing the Lord hasn't given us a personal conviction...
 - ...that it would be sin - to engage in those things that other believers might have the freedom to do.
 - And it's for this reason that we must refrain from misleading others - by encouraging them to sin against their convictions.

● Application

• Love

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 14 - where he declared...

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Rom 14:15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul addressing those - who were failing to walk in love - with those who have different convictions.
 - And while Paul assured us that - when it comes to those things that the Lord permits - there is nothing unclean - in and of itself.
 - At the same time - he also encouraged us to realize that there are those who have personal convictions about permissible things.
 - There are Christians who have personal convictions about everything from the food they eat - to the holidays they celebrate.
 - And according to Paul - we will do well to walk in love with those who have different convictions about permissible things.
- ### • Grace
- With this as the goal - it's crucial for Christians to learn how to respect the personal convictions that others have embraced.
 - And listen - if you're a believer who exercises the right - to eat meats offered to idols...
 - ...it's not your responsibility to challenge others - who have a personal conviction - that it's wrong for them.

- Not only that - but - it's also important for those who have personal convictions about permissible things to also realize that...
- ...it's not your responsibility - to force your personal convictions - on every other Christian.
- Rather than misleading others - according to our personal convictions...
- ...let's instead learn how to become gracious believers - who are loving one another - with the sacrificial love of the Lord.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...while it's true that believers don't have the right to stumble others...
 2. ...and while it's also true that believers don't have the right to mislead others...
 3. ...it's also true that believers don't have the right to wound others
 - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 8...
 - ...look with me - beginning there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

V. Wound

● Text

1Co 8:12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- Sin
 - Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Paul - assuring his audience that...
 - ...the believer who causes another Christian to stumble - by putting their rights - above responsibility - - is actually sinning.
 - And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - sin - found there in verse 12...
 - ...was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who aim for the bullseye - and then miss the mark.
 - The same Greek word - was used of those who wander from the path of uprightness and honor.
 - And what this means is that - those who cause another Christian to stumble back into sin - has sinned against them.
 - And not only them - but - according to Paul - they've sinned against Christ Jesus as well.
- Christ
 - Look with me again - there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

1Co 8:12 ...when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
 - The believer who causes another to stumble - by putting their rights above their responsibility - has not only sinned against them...
 - ...but - they've also sinned against our Savior - Jesus Christ.
 - Think about that for a moment - - those who cause other Christians to stumble over their so-called liberties...

- ...they aren't just sinning against a brother - or a sister in Christ - they are also sinning against our Savior.
- And it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to realize that Jesus did not give us the right to wound weaker believers.

- Wound

- Let's consider again how Paul put it - there in verse 12 - it's there where he declared...

1Co 8:12 ...when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

- As we take another look at this verse - we must not fail to notice that...
 - ...the Christian who causes another believer to stumble back into sin - has wounded their weak conscience.
 - And just to be clear - that word - wound - found there in verse 12 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which was used of those who strike another person with a stick - repeatedly.
 - The same word was also used figuratively - of those who offend others in such a way - that their soul is damaged.

- Example

- Imagine with me for a moment that a Christian - who was a raging alcoholic prior to their Christian conversion...
 - ...was led by the Lord to completely swear off the consumption of alcohol - after becoming a born again believer.
 - Then imagine that this believer found themselves face to face with another Christian...

- ...who made it their mission - to convince every Christian that we all have the right - to drink alcohol.
- And after convincing the weaker believer - to give up their personal conviction concerning the consumption of alcohol...
- ...their conscience ends up being wounded - as the backsliding believer returns the bottle.
- More
 - Sadly - this example is NOT a work of fiction - - it's actually a scenario that has occurred more times than we might like to imagine.
 - What's even worse is that - this same scenario has played out many times with those who have different convictions.
 - This includes those who stumble back into the sin of pornography - after being invited by other believers - to watch a movie with nudity.
 - And this also includes those who return to the sin of sexual immorality - after being convinced to join a dating app.
 - I could present a long list of scenarios - in which a Christian sins against another - by putting rights - above responsibilities.
 - And while the details might be different - the outcome is often the same.
 - The conscience of the weaker believer ends up being wounded - by the Christian who caused them to stumble.
- If
 - With that being the case - we should consider the solution that Paul presented here in our text today.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 12 - where he declared...

1Co 8:12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- Here in the final verse of this chapter - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...he was ready to sacrifice his rights - in order to protect the conscience of the Christians who have stricter convictions.
- In this example - he was willing to stop eating certain meats - that could cause another Christian to stumble.
- And in this way - Paul was leading by example - as he helped the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
- ...believers should always be ready to curb their rights - according to our Christian responsibility - to protect a weaker believer.

● Application

- Good
- We should consider again how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 21 - where he declared...

Rom 14:21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Rom 14:22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Rome to understand that...
- ...we all have a responsibility to curb our rights - in order to protect the believers who have stricter convictions.

- And whether we're talking about the meats we eat - or the drinks we consume...
- ...we will all do well to realize that those who exercise their rights - in a way that could cause others to stumble...
- ...will wound the conscience of those who are offended by the freedoms we enjoy.

- Private

- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome - to exercise their rights - in a way that is private.
- Let's consider again how Paul explained it - here in Romans 14 - it's verse 22 - where he asked...

Rom 14:22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

- Paul encouraged those who have the faith to engage in certain freedoms that could cause another Christian to stumble to realize that...
- ...they'll be happier - if they exercise their rights in private - between themselves and God alone.
- The reason why is due to the fact that - those who choose to exercise the rights that wound the conscience of another Christian...
- ...are actually inviting the loving correction that comes from the Lord...
- ...Who has promised to punish those who stumble their brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Warning

- Let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained this - in Luke 17 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where He declared...

Luk 17:1 "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

Luk 17:2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

- According to the Lord Jesus - we will all find ourselves being offended by those who challenge our personal convictions.
 - And it's for this reason that I encourage those who have embraced stricter convictions that pertain to permissible things...
 - ...make sure that you're ready to stand firm in the convictions that the Lord has led you to embrace.
 - As for those who feel like it's their job to challenge those with stricter convictions - I encourage you to realize that...
 - ...the Lord Jesus has promised to punish those who wound the conscience of those who are weaker in the faith.
 - Versus
 - With all of this in mind - it's crucial for Christians to understand that - we all have rights - individually...
 - ...and at the same time - we all have responsibilities - corporately.
 - And while it's true that we all have the right - to enjoy our liberties - in the privacy of our own homes...
 - ...it's also true that we also have a righteous responsibility to curb our personal convictions - for the sake of our Christian congregation.
 - And knowing that some Christians have stricter convictions about permissible things...

- ...we will all do well to remember that - we don't have the right - to wound the conscience of another believer.
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to keep our liberties in check - according to the love of the Lord.
- Love
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- Now - as we consider this challenge that Paul presented to the Christians in Galatia...
- ...we must not fail to realize that - the right to exercise our liberties - should always take a back seat...
- ...to the responsibility to love one another - with the sacrificial love of the Lord.
- And just to be clear about this goal - Paul encouraged us to set aside our liberties - - so that we can serve one another - through love.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

- Points
- Now - as we begin to bring this study to a close - I encourage you to remember that...

- ...we've been called to keep our individual rights in check - according to our congregational responsibilities.
- And with this as the goal - it's my prayer that we will all remember that...
 1. ...believers don't have the right to stumble other Christians.
 2. ...believers don't have the right to mislead other Christians.
 3. ...believers don't have the right to wound other Christians.
- We don't have the right - to force our personal convictions - on those who have a weaker conscience.
- And instead - we have the Responsibility - of promoting the spiritual health of those who have different convictions than us.
- And with this as the goal - it's my prayer that we will all become believers...
 - ...who are ready to sacrifice our rights - so that we can accomplish our responsibilities - according to the love of the Lord.