

Attitude Shift

Liberty

Craig Smith • February 25, 2018

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **(Rom. 14:1-2)**

Three reasons why I don't need to challenge your convictions regarding personal liberties...

- **God says you're fine** – “The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.” **(v. 3)**
- **You don't answer to me** – “Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.” **(v. 4)**
- **Personal convictions are private property** – “One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.” **(vv. 5-6)**

Therefore, I need an attitude shift with respect to personal liberties...

- **Don't play Judge Judy** – “You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’ So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.” **(vv. 10-13a)**
- **Let love trump liberty** – “Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way...If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love.” **(vv. 13b, 15a)**

🔑 **Sometimes it's not about what is “right,” it's about what is “best”** – “‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” **(1 Cor. 10:23-24)**

- **Make liberty an issue of low kingdom priority** – “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” **(v. 17)**
- **Work for peace** – “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.” **(vv. 19-20a)**

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. **(Rom. 15:5-7)**