

FAMILY



BY
Choice

Family By Choice

Part 4

January 28, 2024

The Book of Romans chapter 14:1-8, “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who

abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

In Paul's letter to the Church at Rome, he speaks into many matters of the Faith! The Roman Road of Faith is truly a powerful truth of Doctrine, Scripture, and perspectives that are given. As such, the Apostle Paul is striving to bring balance and stability to those in faith by addressing the perceptions of those who are a part of the Church body itself.

As I shared last Sunday, the Church should not be an organization much less a faith community that is birthed out of competition and strife. Note that one feels that they are doing what is right to serve the Lord in fasting, or choosing certain foods, or abstaining etc. The point is that we are all in the process of learning how to serve the Lord as disciples.

If one were to strive to make this more personable, perhaps comparing the working mom versus the homemaker mom. One feels she is serving her family by occupation and income; the other is serving her family by homemaking and tending too.

Neither one is better than the other because each person is different as well as there are no two families that are the same. Neither one is “better” than the other because both are being done with the same goal; take care of their family. Therefore, Point #1...

1) As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Take Ownership of Other People’s Baggage, but We are Willing to Help Them Unpack It.

a) The Gospel of Saint Matthew 18:15-17, ¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

b) The Matthew 18 principle something that is a necessity if we are to walk with Christ and with one another. Unforgiveness is a massive weight that literally strips from us our ability to love, to heal, and to move on with our lives. Friends the fact of the matter is that people will hurt us, fail us, make mistakes and fall short.

- c) But one of the biggest issues with a person who is dealing with unforgiveness is that they demand that you take up their baggage and bare their unforgiveness too. We've all dealt with it at some point when someone we love or care about dumps on us their woes in regards to someone else and then seemingly demand by their actions that you take up the same baggage of unforgiveness about the person they just word vomited about.
- d) Church the bottom line is this: someone you trust, trusts someone that you don't. Someone you love, trusts someone you hate. Someone you despise is liked by someone you adore. You cannot expect everyone else to take ownership of your offense. It's yours, not theirs. It's time to unpack it!
- e) Remember that As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Take Ownership of Other People's Baggage, but We are Willing to Help Them Unpack It. Point #2...

2) As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Process Everything Through the Baggage of Offense!

- a) 1 Corinthians 1:10-15, ¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's

people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.”

- b) The Lenses of Offense: Lens of joy and peace versus the lens of offense and unforgiveness – Offense is the birthing ground of Division
- i) Offended people always read more into things that actually exist
 - ii) Offended people always make things personal when they aren't
 - iii) Offended people filter everything through their feelings
 - iv) Offended people demand that you be offended with them
 - v) Offended people will get offended at you for not being offended.
- c) I recently saw the following quote that run true for me personally, “Once someone has chosen to dislike you, everything you do and say will be misinterpreted and that's absolutely not your problem.”
- d) You could cure cancer or solve world hunger and they will still have an issue with how you did.

- e) The same spirit was prevalent in the time of Christ; Jesus was working miracles and they were offended because of what day of the week He performed the impossible on.
- f) Remember, As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Process Everything Through the Baggage of Offense! Point #3...

3) As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Allow our Brethren Hide Behind Their Baggage!

- a) 1 Samuel 10:17-24, ¹⁷Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah.¹⁸ And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.”²⁰ Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.²¹ He brought the tribe of Benjamin nearby its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot;^{le} and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found.²² So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has

hidden himself among the baggage.”²³ Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.²⁴ And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!””

b) Saul, The Great King of Israel, was making the same mistake we are making now. Hiding amongst the baggage does several things:

- i) Cripples your call! - If you are hiding then you are not walking.
- ii) Hinders God - God is hindered when you are not doing your part!
- iii) Disables your faith's walk - you'll never step into authority in Christ if you stay hidden in your tent behind your baggage.
- iv) And As Family by Choice, We Refuse to Allow our Brethren Hide Behind Their Baggage! It's time to come out of Hiding!

(Altar Time)