



Principles for Gray Areas

Romans 14:1-23

What is a GRAY AREA? *Decisions in non-moral matters where God's Word has not prohibited nor commanded a clear ethic. Areas where culture or conditioning > Bible convictions. And where genuine believers too often judge one another yet have freedom in Christ to differ, "for to his own Master each one must stand or fall."*

#1 SEE GRAYS – WHERE WE J_____E & DIVIDE (1-4)

"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand." Rom 14:5 See the "ALPHABET OF CHRISTIAN CONFLICT"

#2 CONVICTION OVER C_____G (5-6)

"fully convinced in their own mind" = search it out in God's Word!!
"the strong" = shows one view is rooted more in Christ & Scripture
"to the Lord" = is my position here more about my gut or God's glory?

#3 RUN IT THROUGH 3 HONEST FILTERS:

Test it against Christ's Lordship in you:

① Is this e_____ing me or another?

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial." 1 Cor 6:12a, 10:23-24

➡ *I will limit my freedoms in love to develop, not destroy others*

② Is this en_____g me?

"I have the right to all things," you say—but I will not be mastered by anything." 1 Cor 6:12b

➡ *I will be 100% honest about what profits me VS has power over me*

④ Is this extending my preference or e_____g people with Christ?

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel." 1 Cor 9:22-23

➡ *I will set aside preference to treasure the Gospel & win people*

Romans 14:1-23

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God....

¹¹ It is written:

"'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.