

**Intro:** I discovered my teaching and discernment gifts early on; this made me despise others.

**Thesis:** Don't impose personal convictions OR exercise liberty carelessly; love God and love others by surrendering your preferences and not imposing your convictions on others.

**Context:** Fulfill the law by love (chapter 13, civil context). Sacrifice your life to God (chapter 12).

**Subject:** The Law of Liberty

**Object:** Exercise Liberties in Love

### **1) [1-4] Receive Others**

- **welcome others in the faith without debates (example of testing people's theology).**

Mark 7 - Jesus declared all foods clean (not what goes into a man that defiles him, but what comes out)

1 Corinthians 8 - meat offered to idols (Paul abstains for sake of others)

1 Timothy 4 - teaching others to abstain from things that God has created is demonic (marriage, food)

- **God has fully received every believer in the gospel; do not judge or despise God's works in progress**

1 Timothy 6 - there are those who like to stir up people with controversies and arguments

2 Timothy 2:23 - don't get involved in stupid arguments

Titus 3 - says to kick out divisive, argumentative people who refuse to stop

- **Judging each other is unnecessary because God has assumed the responsibility for our sanctification**

Colossians 1 - God will present us as blameless before Himself if we continue in the faith

Philippians 1 - God will finish the good work He began in you

*Transition: What do we do with our personal convictions? Are they useless?*

### **2) [5-6] Be Convinced**

- **Personal convictions are good and godly, until they become precedent.**

Galatians 4 - Paul rebuked Christians who taught the observance of days as doctrine

Romans 14:14 - Paul is **convinced** that nothing is unclean **in and of itself; but it is to people who think it is**

Romans 14:22 - keep it to yourself

Romans 14:23 - all not done in faith is sin

*Transition: Romans 14:27 says the kingdom of God is not eating or drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; how do we obtain this?*

### **3) [7-9] Live and Die to God**

- **Our lives belong to God; we were not only created by Him, but purchased and redeemed by His blood.**

Galatians 2:20 - no longer us who live, but Christ who lives in us

Colossians 1:20 - He has reconciled us by the blood of His cross

Philippians 2:6-11 - the gospel

John 15:12 - love each other like Christ did, by surrendering His rights

*Transition: Judgement is the antithesis of love; unrighteous judgement has no place in our lives.*

### **4) [10-13] Judge No One**

- **One of the few things that believers are truly called to abstain from is judgement.**

John 12:47 - Jesus had nothing to do with judgement during His earthly ministry

Matthew 12:36-37 - by your words you will be acquitted or condemned, you will be judged by same standard

1 Corinthians 5:12 - don't judge those outside the church

2 Corinthians 5:10 - we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ and receive what is due

Romans 2 - you will be judged by the same standard that you judge

James 2:13 - mercy triumphs over judgement

Conclusion: Welcome others without judgement, hold tight to your personal convictions, imitate Jesus by surrendering your God-given rights, and judge no one.

**14** Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things.

**2** For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only*

vegetables. **3** Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not

him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. **4** Who are

you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he

will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

**5** One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day

*alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who observes the day,

observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he

does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and

he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. **7** For

none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. **8** For if we live, we live to

the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we

are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He

might be Lord of both the dead and the living. **10** But why do you judge your

brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand

before the judgment seat of Christ. **11** For it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord,

Every knee shall bow to Me,

And every tongue shall confess to God.”

**12** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. **13** Therefore let us

not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling

block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

