

ROMANS 14: 19-23 THE LAW OF LOVE -- “PURSUE PEACE”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue(follow after) **the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.** Because our liberty in Christ and the Law of Love, let us pursue peaceful things and those things that build up others.

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. Although all things are pure for the believer to eat, we do not want to destroy the faith of anyone or to cause evil by eating food with the intention of hurting someone.

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. It is good not to eat or drink anything that would offend a brother or cause him to stumble.

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. If you have faith, have it privately before God. How happy is the one who does not condemn himself in wrongfully approving anything.

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. But one who is convicted by what he eats, because he does not eat from faith, for whatever is or is not done from faith is sin.

INTERPRETATION

Pursue or make an effort for those things **that promote peace.** Do what you can to pursue peace. – **Mt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 12:14.** Pursue those things **that edify or build up one another.** - **1 Cor. 8:1; 10:23; Eph. 4:16, 29; 1 Th. 5:11; Heb. 10-24**

Don't stumble anyone by what you eat or drink. Although all things are pure, in and of themselves to the believer (the law of liberty in Christ), it is wrong (evil) to eat or drink anything with idea of harming anyone or that by doing so it might stumble someone – and you go ahead and do it. **Acts 10:15; 1 Cor. 8:9-12**

Here, the inference to not eating or drinking anything which would offend another, is added to by the fact, **“nor do anything”** that would stumble or offend one who is weak in the faith. We not only need to refrain from setting bad examples by what we eat or drink, but by ANYTHING that we do! **Psalms 140:4; Prov. 24:17; Is. 28:7; Mt. 26:3; Mark 9:42; 1 Cor. 8:13; 10:23-33**

Discernment for yourself – **1 Tim. 4:3-5** It's wonderful to have faith and even more wonderful to have faith before God. We need care in using this freedom or liberty that is so given, so that we do not stumble or hinder another things, which we are at liberty to do, but would hurt another, if done.

Have faith or belief (knowledge and clearness as to our Christian liberty) in what we are doing. Don't be doing it if you don't believe in it! Any conduct or action that is not from faith is sin! **“Whatever is not from faith is sin” Romans 1:17; Titus 1:15; 1 Jn. 3:4**

APPLICATION

May I make every effort to pursue the things that promote peace and the things which will edify or build up others! May I be a peacemaker!

How thankful for the liberty to eat or drink anything, but may I/we not commit an offense by eating or drinking anything with the knowledge that by doing so it might hurt another. God forbid that we should do that.

We need to be especially watchful of our actions and conduct because not only by eating or drinking things which may stumble others, ANYTHING that we do to offend or to stumble another should be carefully and responsibly avoided and not practiced.

How blessed it is to have faith. It is even more blessed to have that faith “before God”, when using the liberty that it gives, might stumble or perplex another.

We need to have faith in what we are doing. If we don't believe in it, we should not be doing it! Any conduct or action that is not from faith is sin!

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Questions:

How do the following differ? Liberty in Christ? The law of love? Legalism?

Is being a peacemaker a natural thing to do?

How do believers make unclean things out of clean things?