

Series: Romans

“Some Biblical Counsel Regarding Non-Essentials”

(Sunday Morning November 21st, 2021)

Passage: Romans 14 (vs 1-10)

We find two verses in Romans on the subject of developing a Christlike mindset; we find six verses that encourage us to use our Spiritual gifts; we find thirteen verses that teach us how to relate to government, but we find _____ verses in Romans related to Christian liberty and our need for unity as it relates to non-essentials.

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 17:22-23 "22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 22 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

Eph 4:3 "being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"

I. We are to Refrain From J_____ Other Christians

1) About N_____

Matt 7:1 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged"

John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearances, but judge with righteous judgment"

Rom 13:13 "Let us behave properly in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness"

1 Thes 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is that you abstain from sexual immorality"

Lev 19:31 "Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them..."

I want to make sure that we all understand that Paul is referring to non-essentials here; he is not referring to things that are c_____ p_____ in the scriptures.

2) By Using C_____

Col 2:16 "Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—"

1 Cor 8:4 "Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one."

1 Cor 8:7 "However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."

Our love for one another and our unity is more important; and so, we should accept those who disagree with us regarding non-essentials u_____.

There are at least three reasons why we are not to judge our fellow Christians regarding non-essentials.

a. First, Because God Already A_____ Them

John 6:37 "...the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out"

b. Second, Because God Will S_____ Them

Heb 7:25 "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, ..." (NKJV)

c. Third, Because God Will J_____ Them

1 Cor 4:5 "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God"

II. We are to Refrain From O_____ Other Christians

1) Our T_____ is at Stake

1 Pet 2:12 "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

2) Our B_____ is at Stake

Matt 18:6 "but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

I want you to notice that Jesus mentions "...these little ones who believe..." in that verse, and He is e_____ s_____.

3) Our C_____ is at Stake

*Acts 23:1 "...Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."'
1 Cor 8:10-12 "10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. 12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ"*

4) Our L_____ is at Stake

1 Cor 6:12 "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything"

1 Cor 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall"

My point is this: we should not o_____ our a_____ to control our lower nature as we consider how we are to enjoy our Christian liberty.

Rom 6:1-2 "1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"

Gal 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery"

Eph 2:8-9 "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast"