**Romans Series September 24, 2023**

**Christian Liberty - Romans 14:13-23**

Christian Decision Making

1. Legalism: ruled by the **expectation of others**

2. Licentiousness: ruled by **your own desires**

3. Liberty: ruled by **God’s expectations and desires**

Christians Avoid Causing **Others to Sin**

* “let us not judge one another anymore”
  + Judge: to **set preference** of one over another
  + Stronger Christians must not look down upon other Christians that view interpretation of non-essential matters of faith differently
* Stronger Christians must not lead new Christians into breaking matters of their conscience
  + “not to put an obstacle or stumbling block in a brother’s way”
* The main motive of mature believers toward newer Christians is **love**
  + “If because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love” (verse 15)

Rather than Being Divisive Christians pursue **spiritual fruit**

* Righteousness, peace and joy are representative samples of many types of spiritual fruit
  + Paul was not limiting the Christian’s demonstration of spiritual fruit, but using these to illustrate the purpose of staying unified together and pursuing the Lord as a priority

Christians Goals Are to **Preserve Unity**

* Pursing peace is not simply lack of conflict, it is having right relationship with one another
  + As we relate to each other as brothers and sisters, we desire to see each other growing together toward the Lord

Christians Live by their **Personal Convictions**

* What God convicts each Christian to do or to avoid is a personal matter
  + If Christians are persuaded to violate their conscience to join in some activity, for them it is a sin against God

**Christian Liberty Guidelines**

1. Is it according to God’s Word? (Psalm 119:11)

2. Is it enslaving? (1 Corinthians 6:12)

3. Does it defile or destroy my body? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

4. Will it be a stumbling block to another Christian? (Rom. 14:13)

5. Will it glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31)

6. How will it affect my testimony? (1 Corinthians 10:32-33)

7. Will it grieve the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30)

8. Can it be done in Jesus’ name with thanksgiving? (Col. 3:17)

9. Would Jesus or Paul do it? (1 Corinthians 11:1)

10. Is it profitable? (1 Corinthians 10:23)

**Application**

1. Is it ok to watch movies? If so, which ones?

2. Can I drink an alcoholic beverage?

3. Can I use recreational marijuana?

4. Can I get a tattoo?

5. Can I attend a same sex wedding?

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