

Matters of Liberty

March 2023



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Rom 14
1 Cor 8



- What does it mean to be the “weaker brother/sister”?
- How do we submit to them?
- When should we not submit to them?

Rom 14 Overview

- ❑ We are to accept the opinions of others when God accepts both opinions
 - ❑ Specific context is food and holidays. The Jews had many of these to observe but now it was not necessary.
 - ❑ Sinful behavior is not under discussion.
 - ❑ If one has faith to eat all things and another has faith to eat only vegetables – both are to accept one another
 - ❑ God is our master. He judges us, we do not.
- ❑ Holidays or food or whatever – it does not matter, each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. See also Col 3:17
- ❑ Christ died for us. Whatever we do, we do for the Lord (v13:14, 12:6-9, Gal 2:20)

Rom 14 Overview (Page 2)

- ❑ Do not put a stumbling block in front of others by judging their opinions (v13, 20, 21). Doing so is sinful (v15)
- ❑ If you insist on doing what another believes to be sinful, your good deed will be evil spoken of (v16-17).
 - ❑ The Kingdom of God (the church, the people you assemble with) are more important than your opinions
 - ❑ It is not "all about you". Do not be selfish or arrogant. Sometimes we do not realize we are doing this because the "thing" seems important to us.
- ❑ Pursue things that make for peace and building up of one another (v19-20)
- ❑ If you think something is wrong, to you it is wrong (i.e. sinful). If you doubt, you are condemned. (v14, 22, 23).
- ❑ Review 1 Cor 8 for specifics

Do We Understand Rom 14 & 1 Cor 8?

- What topics are included in Rom 14:
 - Differences on baptism is essential for salvation?
 - Differences on using the Lord's money to supplement bible colleges?
 - Differences on celebrating holidays?
 - Differences on order of worship, color of carpet, chairs vs pews, etc?
- How does one make another stumble?
- If you think something is sinful (but it is not) it is still sinful to you if you do it.
(T or F) If you think something is right, to you it is right?
- What are you willing to give up so that your brother does not stumble?

What does it mean to be the Weaker Brother/Sister?

- We are talking about a brother or sister in Christ who
 - Sincerely doubts that _____ is allowed by God. Examples used, were eating meat sacrificed to idols, or celebrating “certain” holidays.
 - AND their conscience will not allow them to do _____.
 - AND, there is scripture or biblical principles that supports ____ being allowed.
- OR, we are talking about a brother or sister who sincerely believes _____ is sinful for all AND God allows ____ but they do not yet understand the scripture supports it.
 - Ex. Someone may believe that wearing the covering is required by all. Every woman who does not wear it is sinning
- Given any two brethren (Bob and George)
 - Bob could be the “weaker” brother on **topic A** and George is the “stronger” brother
 - George could be the “weaker” brother on **topic B** and Bob is the “stronger” brother

How do we to treat the Weaker Brother/Sister?

- Php 2:3-4 NASB Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 1Co 8:13 NASB Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.
- 1Co 8:10 NASB 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?
- 1Co 9:22-23 NASB To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. (23) I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
- 1Co 9:19 NASB For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.
- Rom 14:1 NASB Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.
- Rom 14:3 NASB The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.
- Rom 12:18 NASB If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- Are there any others verses that should be included here?

When Should we Submit to the Weaker Brother/Sister?

- Key Questions:
 - Does God allow _____? We MUST have authority for all that we do. Col 3:17
 - Is _____ allowed under “generic” authority or an incidental (ex. Upper room)?
 - Is _____ allowed as an “ox in the ditch on the Sabbath” situation?
- Follow-on Question to “weaker” brother/sister
 - Is practicing ____ sinful for all or does it cause you to sin/participate/stumble?
- Many things fall under “generic” authority so one must recognize that things approved under “generic” authority are “open” to opinions. Hence your opinion is as good as any other opinion.
- If we answer “YES” then we need to follow the passages on the previous slide. We must get past/over the “personal sacrifice required to fulfill these commands”. This is **our service to God**. Christ died for us so it is a small price to pay
- If we answer “NO”, then we need to respect their opinion and NOT try to change it but there is no need to submit to their conscience

Within the context of a local Congregation, lets answer a few questions

Note: There are lots of specific circumstances not stated that could alter the biblical response.

- If a sister believed that wearing the covering was required by all women otherwise, they would go to Hell, what should you do?
 - Wear the covering while worshipping with this sister, study, give her time and maybe study again
- If sister believes that God forbids wearing of makeup. She is convinced it is sinful. She grew up with this teaching. Even after a number of studies, she still believes it is sinful. What should you do?
 - Stop wearing makeup, give her some time and maybe study some more
- If brother believes sprinkling is a scriptural baptism and wants the congregation to practice this rather than immersion, what should the congregation do?
 - Study with brother but refuse to practice sprinkling
- If a brother believes partaking of the Lord's supper on Sunday evening in a back room with a few is unscriptural, what should the congregation do? What should the brother do?
 - Congregation should conduct Lord's supper on Sunday evening in the assembly.
 - Brother should study with congregation but otherwise quietly move on if the brethren are "hesitant" on changing the practice

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Note: There are lots of specific circumstances not stated that could alter the biblical response.

- If one brother A believes brother X should not be allowed to teach with brother A because of _____. But another brother B believes brother X should be allowed, what should happen?
 - Part ways . Brother A teach at a differ location from where Brother B and X are teaching
- If Brother A believes money from the treasury cannot be used for bible class material, but the congregation uses money from the treasury to pay for bible class material, what should happen?
 - Study together to understand the reason for belief and if this is a personal thing or a matter of sin or something that could cause you to sin
 - Depending on the specifics, the next steps will vary.
 - The brother with this belief is likely to have other misunderstandings that are more important