

Romans 14
Liberties and Love
March 27, 2022

Romans 14:1-13 Freedoms in Christ

Revelation 20:11-15 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Deuteronomy 12:20

- 1) God's commands in Scripture are _____ - _____
- 2) The "_____ in faith" is the one who is more restrictive
- 3) Personal convictions must remain _____
- 4) Whether you _____ or not - do it unto the Lord!
- 5) Our earthly choices and _____ affect heavenly rewards.

Verses 14-23 Love Amidst Liberties

Matthew 26:47-50 1 Corinthians 8:13 Romans 14:17
Romans 12:2 Romans 15:1 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

- 6) Love your brother more than your _____

Your conscience ...

- ...is your personal, moral _____
 - ... must be obeyed if you _____ it's functioning accurately.
 - ... is not always _____
 - ... can be _____-sensitive and/or _____-sensitive.
 - ... must be continually recalibrated by the _____
- 7) Regarding Christian liberties, be _____, not dogmatic, for the sake of love and the gospel.

*For a deeper dive on this topic I recommend the book *Conscience* by Andrew Naselli and J.D. Crowley

Romans 14
Liberties and Love
March 27, 2022

Romans 14:1-13 Freedoms in Christ

Revelation 20:11-15 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Deuteronomy 12:20

- 1) God's commands in Scripture are NON - NEGOTIABLE
- 2) The "WEAK in faith" is the one who is more restrictive
- 3) Personal convictions must remain PERSONAL
- 4) Whether you PARTAKE or not - do it unto the Lord!
- 5) Our earthly choices and MOTIVES affect heavenly rewards.

Verses 14-23 Love Amidst Liberties

Matthew 26:47-50 1 Corinthians 8:13 Romans 14:17
Romans 12:2 Romans 15:1 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

- 6) Love your brother more than your FREEDOM

Your conscience ...

- ...is your personal, moral SMOKE ALARM
 - ... must be obeyed if you BELIEVE it's functioning accurately.
 - ... is not always RIGHT
 - ... can be UNDER-sensitive and/or OVER-sensitive.
 - ... must be continually recalibrated by the BIBLE
- 7) Regarding Christian liberties, be FLEXIBLE, not dogmatic, for the sake of love and the gospel.

*For a deeper dive on this topic I recommend the book *Conscience* by Andrew Naselli and J.D. Crowley

5) What questions or comments do you have about the following passage?

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 - "[9] Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. [11] Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences."

Why do you think Paul kept his eyes on the "prize" of eternal rewards in heaven?

How do you think Paul kept his eyes on the prize amidst all the hardship he endured? (Optional: See 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 for a list of Paul's hardships)

TAKING IT HOME

- 6) Is there an area where your conscience is *under-sensitive*? Would you benefit from adding a personal restriction? If so, what?
- 7) Looking back at your notesheet and homework, what do you most need to put into practice this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ Pray for the persecuted church
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of March 27, 2022

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) This week we talked about gray areas and our conscience. Our conscience is often "tuned" by our culture and upbringing. Can you think of any "gray areas" that are formed by your culture and/or upbringing?

REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching in Romans 14, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) This week we talked about our conscience. For many years David was fleeing for his life from his own king, Saul, who had gone mad trying to keep the throne of Israel. Read how David responded below, noting any questions or comments you have.

1 Samuel 24:3-7 - "[3] So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) [4] Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. [5] Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. [6] And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch

out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." [7] So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. "Why do you think Paul tells us to pray for kings and those in authority?

In what way(s) did David's men have a clear conscience?

In what way(s) did David's conscience convict him?

Why do you think the consciences of David and his men were so different?

Why do you think David called Saul "his master" and "the LORD's anointed" (even as Saul was rebelling against God and betraying his loyal servant, David)?

4) This week, we were challenged to be flexible (rather than dogmatic) when it comes to Christian liberties. Read Paul's motive for doing so below. Note any questions or comments.

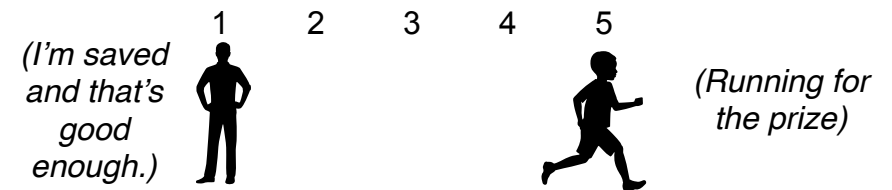
1 Corinthians 9:19-27 - "[19] For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; [20] and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; [21] to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win

those who are without law; [22] to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. [23] Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. [24] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. [25] And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. [26] Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. [27] But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

Based on the passage above, can it be beneficial to *add* personal rules or restrictions in your life for Jesus? Why or why not?

When/how does an extra rule/restriction become a *bad thing*?

Paul calls us to run our race for Jesus like an athlete runs for their prize. If you were to estimate your level of effort or dedication, where would you fall on the diagram below?



If you had to pick one thing, what would you change or do differently, in order to *better* run your "race" for Jesus?