

ROMANS

TRANSFORMED!

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH & DAN GILLETTE

DATE: JULY 5, 2020

Romans 14:13-23

Review: The Foundation for How to Deal with Disputable Matters (Rom. 14:1-12)

1. We treat those we disagree with in light of their relationship with God. (1-4)
2. We develop personal convictions based on Christ's Lordship (5-9).
3. We mind our attitudes because we will explain them to Jesus (10-12).

The Dangers of Misusing Our Freedom:

- (v. 13, 20, 21) stumbling block, stumble – to stop or delay the maturing process.
(v. 13) hindrance – to slow or impede the maturing process.
(v. 15) grieved – emotional distress.
(v. 15, 20) destroy – to tear down or impair progress.
(v. 23) condemned – result of sin.

So, how should stronger believers use their freedoms around the weaker?

1. They determine not to impose their freedom of conscience as the "correct" standard (13).

Rom. 14:13 *Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.*

2. They love sacrificially by willingly forgoing freedoms to benefit their brother (14-15).

Rom. 14:14 *I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15* *For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.*

3. They exercise their freedom in light of the unsurpassed value of Christ and His kingdom (16-19).

Rom. 14:16 *So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17* *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18* *Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19* *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

4. They navigate the tension of the stronger/weaker dynamic (20-21).

Rom. 14:20 *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.*

5. They must, in every situation, be responding to their God personally (22-23).

Rom. 14:22 *The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Have you considered the impact of your actions around weaker believers?
How does Romans 14:13-23 influence your view of this?
2. How are your own convictions regarding your freedoms a result of your relationship with God?
3. What do you do when it seems easier to just exercise your freedoms around weaker brothers and sisters?
4. What thought patterns can you establish to better determine how to sacrificially love others that may be weaker in faith?

SONGS

"Come Thou Fount" - Chad Gardner, Robert Robinson

"Way Maker" - Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

"Forever" - Christa Black Gifford, Kari Jobe, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson, Joel Taylor, Gabriel Wilson

"Jesus Paid It All" - John Thomas Grape, Elvina M. Hall, Alex Nifong

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$27,924.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$889,456.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$909,454.00