

*Paul's Letter to the*  
**Romans**

*Ch. 14:13-23*





# GOOD RULE OF THUMB

In Essentials—**Unity**.

In Non-essentials—**Liberty**.

In all things—**Charity** (love).





# 3 REASONS WE SHOULD MAINTAIN UNITY WITH OTHERS IN THE CHURCH



- 1.The Lord Accepts all believers (14:3)
- 2.The Lord Upholds all believers (14:4)
- 3.The Lord Judges all believers (14:12)



# 5 EXHORTATIONS AS WE EXERCISE OUR FREEDOMS



1. Don't make others stumble. (14:13)
2. Don't destroy with your freedoms. (14:15)
3. Don't let Freedoms be spoken of as evil. (14:16)
4. Build up. (14:19)
5. Don't tear down. (14:20)



# ROMANS 14:13–23



13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.



# THE CONSCIENCE

- ❖ Is that inner voice that speaks to you and tells you whether something is right or wrong.
- ❖ We are all born with one (Rom. 2:15). It is an innate knowledge of God's moral law placed upon our hearts by God.
  - It is our "Early warning system."
  - But, It can be deadened, seared, and silenced.
  - By sin—**but** also by NOT listening to it!
  - Don't go against it! (Paul's underlining theme)





# ROMANS 14:13–14



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- Paul is NOT talking about primary issues such as doctrine or sin.
- He's talking about secondary issues.
- Things that the Bible neither commands nor condemned.



# USE DISCERNMENT IN THESE

- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Holidays
- ☐ College choices
- ☐ Wine
- ☐ Tattoos.
- ☐ Sunday dress.
- ☐ Even what musical instruments we allow in church on Sunday.





Just because you HAVE the freedom,  
doesn't mean you should TAKE  
that freedom

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“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. 6:12

“All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable.”

All things are lawful, but not all things edify.”

1 Cor. 10:23



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15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not **destroy** with your food him for whom Christ died.



“If a Christian brother, unable to enjoy the freedom that is yours, is troubled by your “unrestricted diet” and you persist in eating whatever you wish, you are no longer acting in the spirit of love. Paul’s instruction is clear: do not allow your own freedom of conscience to destroy your brother or sister for whom Christ died. To influence others to act against their conscience is a serious matter. Acting contrary to what one perceives to be right is to weaken one’s own moral structure and undermine integrity. “

Mounce.





# ROMANS 14:16-19



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