

Romans: The Greatest Letter Ever Written

“We need a Guide in order to walk in love”

Romans 14:13-18

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THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

Romans 14:13–18 “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. 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. 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.”

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Big Idea: The Holy Spirit can empower us to focus on our love and not our liberty.

A discussion on conscience :: Conscience is given for each person to judge their own acts and character, not those of others...

Love judges oneself when another's spiritual growth is at risk. (13-15a)

Romans 14:13-15a "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. 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."

Love considers the sacrifice of Christ. (15b-16)

Romans 14:1b5–16 "By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil."

Hebrews 12:1–3 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

Love is characteristic of the Kingdom of God. (17-18)

Romans 14:17–18 "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."

Spiritual Reign of God = God's dominion over the heart

Colossians 1:13–14 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Physical Reign of God = Not yet realized on this earth...

Ephesians 2:1–2 "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—"

Love is an impossible standard apart from the Holy Spirit. (17b)

Romans 14:17b "For the kingdom of God is ... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Galatians 5:22–26 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

Questions for Reflection:

When it comes to matters of conscience, do I treat others with love?

In what ways have I been ignoring the power of the Holy Spirit?

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