

## "The Fight for Unity and Holiness" (Part 1)

Romans 13:14-14:6

*"There is freedom, in matters of conscience (the God given ability to govern oneself by the use of reason/rational or to have caution because of danger or risk, and/or where there is no biblical obligation), to believe, abstain from, esteem, observe, and approve of certain things. The responsibility of the Christian is to be fully convinced of his/her position, to do this for the glory of God, to keep judgment in mind, to keep others in mind, and to not lay your conviction on someone else."*

- *"The one who is weak in faith and the one who is strong in faith":*
  - *Who are the weak? (Romans 14:1)*
    - Saved Jews who continued to practice the Old Testament Dietary Laws (Clean and Unclean animals) and continue to practice some of the Old Testament Ceremonial Laws (Sabbath, Feasts, Sacrifices) (Colossians 2:16-17).
    - Saved Gentiles who because of former pagan practices would not eat meat sacrificed to idols, which was a majority of the meat that was sold culturally (1 Corinthians 8:7-9).
  - *Who are the strong? (Romans 15:1)*
    - Both saved Jews and Gentiles that no longer felt bound to or restrained from these practices of their former lives (Galatians 5:13-15).
    - These things have nothing to do with Doctrine/Gospel or Moral realities.
- *"Welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions"*
  - We as Christians should not quarrel over opinions, but we do fight for unity.
    - *"For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?; For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.; Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.; With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.; For He (Christ) Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility." (1 Corinthians 3:3; James 3:16; Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:2-3; Ephesians 2:14).*
- *"Let not the one who eats DESPISE....let not the one who abstains pass JUDGMENT...."*
  - Despising and judging on issues of conscience, will lead to driving people out of Christian fellowship. This despising and judging were based on two major ideas:
    - Legalism: You must do these extra biblical things or these works based things to be saved/stay saved. *"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used) - according to human precepts and teachings. These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh."* (Colossians 2:22-23)
    - Antinomianism: I can do whatever I want and still be saved. I don't have to obey God, I can sin and let grace abound. *"Whoever says I know Him but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked."* (1 John 2:4-6)
    - The Balance: We are welcomed through the work of Christ not our stance on issues of conscience or our good works (Romans 14:3; Titus 3:5). God makes us stand fast or persevere, not because of our stance on issues of conscience or our good works (Romans 14:4; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9). We

(continued →)

**Worship:** Psalm 18 (Citizens)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Various Artists)

Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call (Matt Boswell and Matt Papa)

**Closing Song:** Nothing But the Blood (Various Artists)**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- should do everything we do for God's glory, that is, in love for neighbor (Romans 13:8) by being fully convinced (Romans 14:5) and by desiring to honor the Lord/in thankfulness (Romans 14:6).
- How to live with growing, not yet sanctified Christians....
    - Live with an "I will assume the best in my brothers and sisters attitude" and an "innocent until proven guilty attitude" and it will help us avoid sinning against our brothers and sisters (Deuteronomy 19:15-20; Exodus 23:1-3; Proverbs 18:17; Matthew 18:15-16; 1 Timothy 5:19) .
    - Keep loving one another earnestly and be patient with one another. Love brings unity and peace among brothers and sisters (1 Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:2-3; Colossians 3:13-15).
    - Expediently forgive one another because we have been forgiven so much in Christ (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 18:21-22; Matthew 6:14-15).
    - Be humble enough to know that you are not right about everything and that changing is a normative part of the sanctification process (1 Peter 5:5-6; James 4:6-7).
    - Keep growing. You help your brothers and sisters grow in sanctification by growing in holiness (Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:26-27).
- 

#### **Announcements:**

- **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING:** We are having a Children's Ministry Meeting TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. If you currently serve in or are interested in/have questions about serving in the Children's Ministry, please stay for this meeting!
- **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:** THIS Friday, October 22nd, we are offering free child care, giving the parents a chance to enjoy an evening alone while their children are well cared for by responsible adults who love and care for them! Child care will be provided at the Davis residence (632 Mill Race Road). There is a sign-up list on the back table for those parents who would be interested in taking advantage of this Parents' Night Out!
- **PASTOR APPRECIATION:** Throughout the month of October we are collecting a special offering for the Pastoral Staff for Pastor Appreciation Month. If you would like to give to that, please put your donation into an offering envelope (on the side of the offering box) and mark on the outside of the envelope: "Pastoral Staff Appreciation" OR give your donation on Venmo, making sure to note it is for the "Pastoral Staff Appreciation."
- **MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a Members Meeting on Sunday, November 14th, immediately following the worship service, to discuss the 2022 church budget. If you are a church member, please mark your calendars and plan to stay for that meeting.
- **FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, October 24th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something! EVERYONE is invited to stay and enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!