

“The Fight For Unity and Holiness — Understanding Our Conscience” (Part 3)
Romans 14:14-19

“The intent of God is to have a diversity of people within the local church for our humility and sanctification. My flesh is petty and wants to be around people who are just like me, almost like a fraternity. Deep convictions on secondary issues should not cut us off or build a firewall from other brothers and sisters in Christ. The church should be the most loving place in town. We accept one another as Christ has accepted us.”
(Steven Lawson — cf. Romans 15:6-7)

- There is a danger in trying to expedite others' sanctification due to issues of conscience. For the sake of love, we must be patient and kind in addressing issues of conscience, and trust in God as He matures people absent of forceful or frustrated persuasion (Romans 13:8; Romans 13:14; Romans 14:3-4; Romans 12:1-2).
- *“I am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself...”*
 - Paul is convinced because of the teachings of Jesus, that no food or drink is unclean in itself. What defiles a man is what comes out of him, not what he eats or drinks (Mark 7:8 & 13-23; Acts 10:12-16; 1 Timothy 4:3-8).
 - Jesus addresses the dangers of legalism and of antinomianism in Mark 7:13-23. We must always be observing our lives to see if we are leaning in one of these directions.
 - *Legalism:* You must do these extra biblical things or these works based things to be saved/stay saved. *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.
- *“For if your brother is grieved (despised, judged/condemned, stumbles, or destroyed) by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love.”*
 - *Conscience is a God-given capacity to make moral judgments in areas in which we do not have clear revelation from God or where we lack the spiritual maturity to properly understand His revelation.*
 - *Conversion doesn't automatically transform the conscience. Retraining is necessary, and it takes time. No one's conscience perfectly matches God's will either. In our fallen world, a person's conscience can be seared, but it can also become overly sensitive.*
 - The Christian should not want to take any action toward a believer that will make him/her struggle. If we practice Romans 12:9-13 and Romans 13:8-10 towards one another we will be more likely to be patient as they are experiencing Romans 12:1-2.
- *“Do not destroy the one for whom Christ died....”*
 - Jesus made the greatest sacrifice for us all (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:23-25; Isaiah 53:4-6) so that we can be saved. Are we ready to give up “food and drink” so that we don't impede the growth of the one for whom Jesus died. *“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.; So let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.; Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.; To equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:12; Ephesians 4:29).
 - There is great importance to orthodoxy (biblical teaching) and orthopraxy (biblical living). Don't have one without the other (1 Corinthians 13:2; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5-8; Ephesians 2:8-10).
- *“So then do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.”*

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Worship: Grace Alone (The Modern Post) Rock of Ages (Dustin Kensrue)

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Sovereign Grace Music) **Closing Song:** All Glory Be to Christ (Kings Kaleidoscope)

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

- Christian freedom is a good thing if it is not used for the flesh (Galatians 5:13). But an improper use of our Christian freedom or an unwillingness to temporarily lay down our Christian freedom can lead to sin instead of righteousness, disunity instead of peace, and sadness instead of joy (Romans 14:17). Salvation/righteousness, peace, and joy are more precious than Christian freedom (1 Corinthians 9:3-14 & 18-19). Paul gave up so many of his freedoms for love and the gospel.
 - Paul gave up his right to eat certain food and drink (Romans 14:21).
 - Paul possibly gave up his right to have a believing wife (1 Corinthians 7:6 & 9:5).
 - Paul gave up his right to take money from the church for his mission work (1 Corinthians 9:12).
 - Paul gave up his right to be free from Jewish Ceremonial Law (Acts 21:24-26).
 - Paul was willing to give up anything that was lawful to give up, so that he would not hurt a weak brother (Romans 14:21).
- When you live this way you will “*be acceptable/pleasing to God and approved by men.*”
 - It is pleasing to God for us to welcome our weak brothers and sisters (Romans 15:7) and properly love our weak brothers and sisters in Christ (John 13:34-35).
- As we strive for holy living we must also realize that our Christian freedom can be used against us as good things (1 Corinthians 6:12; Hebrews 12:1) can master us and become harmful things *personally* as well. We must strive to be balanced in what we give our time, energy, and finances to (Galatians 5:13).

Announcements:

- PASTOR APPRECIATION: Today is the last day we will be collecting a special offering for the Pastoral Staff for Pastor Appreciation Month.
- MEMBERS MEETING: We will be having a Members Meeting ***IN 2 WEEKS***, 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.
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: THIS Friday, November 5th, Heartbeats is in need of some volunteers to help tear down after their yearly appreciation event. If you are available next Friday from 9am-1pm, please see Pastor Jeremy about volunteering.
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, November 7th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!
- COMMUNION: We will be partaking of and celebrating communion together next Sunday during the worship service.