

“The Fight For Unity and Holiness — Understanding Our Conscience” (Part 4)
Romans 14:20-15:4 & 2 Peter 1:8-15

“Love is the overflow and expansion of joy in God (peace, strength, encouragement, love, grace, mercy, wisdom), which gladly meets the needs (spiritual and physical) of others. We must fight for our love not to grow cold.” (John Piper)

“Love grows by time spent with one another. Love grows cold by love spent away from one another. Christian love also grows for one another by being centered on salvation and sanctification. This is the unity we are fighting for.”

- **Overview of the text:**
 - 14:20-21: I do not want to do anything that creates obstacles in someone else’s sanctification/salvation. Instead I want to remove obstacles in someone growing in their relationship with Christ or coming to know Christ (Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 9:23).
 - 14:22: Strong brother, the biblical conviction that you have about your freedom in Christ, celebrate with God and be willing to *temporarily* lay it down for the good of your weaker brother until they grow into agreement. So that you will have a joy that is found in loving as Christ loved and Christian freedom will not be looked at as sinful. In humility, ask God to convict you and guide you into truth if your position has error in it (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 5:5-6).
 - 14:23: Weaker brother, follow your conscience, but continue maturing your conscience by growing in your knowledge of God’s Word and practicing God’s Word. Have humility in your position and know that you may be wrong (conviction with humility). Always proceed in faith according to God’s Word and conscience.
 - 15:1-2: Doctrinal clarity, strength, and wisdom is not given for self-exaltation but instead for self-denial and God glorifying love. It is given to build-up not hinder.
 - 15:3-4: Jesus was our example of seeking to please God and do God’s will at the denial of self. We should have this mind among us: Death to self, serve others, obey God no matter the cost (Philippians 2:3-8).
- **Commitment to be Christ-Centric: (1 Timothy 1:15)**
 - We have been called to be imitators of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).
 - We have been called to put on Christ (Romans 13:14).
 - We have been called to set our minds on Christ (Colossians 3:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-3).
 - I have been called to offer myself as a living sacrifice to Christ (Romans 12:1).
 - I belong to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 14:8).
 - We owe no one anything except to love as we have been loved in Christ (Romans 13:8).
- **Commitment to pursue personal holiness: (2 Corinthians 7:1)**
 - We are not debtors to our flesh to live according to fleshly desires (Romans 8:12-13).
 - We do not give any opportunity for the flesh to lead us to sin (Galatians 5:13).
 - We make no provision for the flesh to have any foothold in our lives (Romans 13:14).
 - We have given enough time in our lives in pursuing fleshly desires (1 Peter 4:2-3).
 - If we walk according to God’s Word we will not gratify the flesh (Galatians 5:16).
 - In Christ our flesh has been crucified (Galatians 5:24).
 - In Christ, by the Spirit, we will grow in godliness (Galatians 5:22-23) and put to death the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20).

(continued →)

Worship: Glorious Christ (Sovereign Grace Music) God Omniscient, God All Knowing (Matt Boswell)
In tenderness (The Sing Team) **Closing Song:** Crown Him (Citizens)

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

- **Commitment to love the Christian Community: (John 13:34-35).**
 - I will use my gifts for the common good of the community (1 Corinthians 12:7).
 - God has given me leaders for the community's growth in godliness (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - God has given me community for our mutual strength (1 Corinthians 12:21).
 - God has given me a community for corporate suffering and rejoicing (1 Corinthians 12:26).
 - God has given me a community for mutual sanctification (Hebrews 3:12-14).
 - God has given me a community for mutual growing in good works (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Announcements:

- **MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a Members Meeting **NEXT** 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 TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!
- **FRIENDSGIVING:** We will be having our annual Friendsgiving Dinner together on Wednesday, November 24th, at 6:30pm, at the Decker Residence (517 Jackson Blvd). There is a sign-up list on the back table for people to sign-up to bring main dishes, side dishes, and desserts. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend Friendsgiving!

Account Balance: \$28,758.64 September Balance: \$34,200.92	Weekly Budget: \$3,200.50
Actual Tithe: October 3	\$3,054
Actual Tithe: October 10	\$1,886
Actual Tithe: October 17	\$721
Actual Tithe: October 24	\$1,292
Actual Tithe: October 31	\$1,731