

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS WEAKER BROTHER

Romans 14:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Some Christians are stronger than others vs. 2
 - 1) Some believe they can eat all things
 - 2) Some are weak and eat all things
 - 3) The same is true of days

- B. These matters are of minor importance
 - 1) Do what you do for God's glory
 - 2) All will be judged by the Lord

- C. Paul teaches us to, walk charitably
 - 1) Do not be a stumbling block
 - 2) Do not insist on openly exercising that which your faith allows you to do.

- I. Do Not Cause Your Brother To Fall verse 13
 - A. *"Let us not therefore judge one another:"*
 - 1) "So let us stop criticizing one another" Mof.
 - 2) "So let us no longer pass judgment on" Mon.

 - B. "but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way"
 - 1) "*stumblingblock*" = προσκομμα = "stumbling, the opportunity to take offense or to make a misstep"
 - 2) "*occasion to fall*" = σκανδαλον = "snare", "the stick which caused the trap to fall"
 - 3) "but let this rather be your judgment, do nothing to make a brother stumble or fall"

- II. Nothing Is Innately Evil verse 14
 - A. *"I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself"*
 - 1) "*know*" = ουδα = "I have perceived"

- 2) "persuaded" = πειθω = "to be convinced", "to yield to another", "to assent", "to obey"
- 3) "unclean" = κοινος = "common", "defiled", It is used to describe the "common" customs of those who were not Jewish.
- 4) Paul was convinced by his contact with Jesus that nothing was intrinsically evil.

B. *"but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean"*

- 1) "esteemeth" = λογιζομαι = "to occupy one's self in calculations", "to come to a conclusion"
- 2) "unclean" = κοινος
- 3) If it violates your conscience, then it is defiling you!

III. Let Love Rule Your Actions verse 15

A. *"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walketh thou not charitably."*

- 1) "grieved" = λυπω = "to afflict with sorrow"
- 2) "meat" = βρωμα = "whatever is eaten", "solid food"
- 3) "walketh" = περιπατω = "to tread about"
- 4) "charitably" = κατα = "according to" + αγαθη
- 5) "If your habit of unrestricted diet seriously upsets your brother" Phi.
- 6) "You are not living by the standard of love" Wms.

B. *"Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died"*

- 1) "destroy" = απολλυμι = "to destroy utterly" It is not annihilation but ruin, loss"
- 2) "Do not, by what you eat, ruin a man for whom Christ died" TENT

C. *"Let not then your good be evil spoken of:"* vs. 16

- 1) "What for you is a good thing must not become an occasion for slanderous talk." NEB

- 2) "So do not let what is good to you be spoken of as evil." [βλασφημew = blaspheme] "...give the enemies of God occasion to...Davids's son."

IV. The True Content of God's Kingdom *verse 17*

A. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;"

- 1) "...does not mean food and drink" Rsv.
- 2) "...does not consist in..."

B. "but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"

- 1) "righteousness" = δικαιοσυνη = "the being or doing what is just and right..."
- 2) "peace" = ειρηνη = "the end of strife", "a state of health or well-being", "untroubled"
- 3) "joy" = χαρα = "delight", "gladness"
- 4) "In the Holy Spirit"

V. Approved In Two Worlds *verse 18*

A. "For he that in these things serveth Christ"

- 1) "serveth" = δουλευω = "serve as a slave"
- 2) "He serves Christ in this way..."

B. "...acceptable to God, and approved of men"

- 1) "acceptable" = ευαρεστος = "well-pleasing"
- 2) "approved" = δοκιμος = "assayed", "examined", "tested", "esteemed"
- 3) "He who serves Christ in this way pleases God, and wins the approval of his fellow men."