

Legalism, License and Christian Liberty Part 3

Biblical principles of discernment on matters of liberty

Romans 14:1-4 - 1 Now **accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.** 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 **Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.** 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5-6 - 5 **One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.** 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.
NASB

Colossians 2:16-17 - 16 Therefore **let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day** — 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Galatians 6:13-15 - 13 For **those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves**, but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 **For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.** NASB

Colossians 2:18-23 - 18 **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels**, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly

mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, **why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23** These are matters which have, to be sure, **the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.** NASB

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 - 4 Therefore **concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world**, and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. 7 **However not all men have this knowledge**; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and **their conscience being weak is defiled.** 8 But **food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.** 9 **But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.** 10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. **12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.** 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble. NASB

Romans 14:7-9 - 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 **for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.** 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. NASB

Romans 14:10-12 - 10 But you, **why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.** 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." 12 So then **each one of us shall give account of himself to God.** NASB

See then how important it is to **allow love toward God and neighbor** (the summation of the Law), to be the **guiding principle** in Christian relations and practice, being **careful** not to **offend others**, yet holding our **own convictions** before God.

Romans 14:13-18 - 13 Therefore **let us not judge one another anymore**, but rather determine this — **not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.** 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that **nothing is unclean in itself**; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 For **if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love.** Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore **do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil**; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. NASB

1 Corinthians 8:8-9,12-13 - 8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. 9 But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak..... 12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that **I might not cause my brother to stumble.** NASB

Romans 14:19-22 - 19 So then let us **pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.** 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 **It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.** NASB

Romans 14:22-23 - 22 The faith which you have, have as your **own conviction before God.** Happy is he who **does not condemn himself in what he approves.** 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **whatever is not from faith is sin.** NASB

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 - 31 Whether, then, **you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 just as **I also please all men in all things,** not seeking my own profit, but **the profit of the many, that they may be saved.** NASB

Romans 15:1-7 - 1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and **not just please ourselves.** 2 **Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.** 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me." 7 Wherefore, **accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.** NASB