

caused me to violate my conscience by following his example? Have I caused a weaker brother to violate their conscience by following my example?

17. How can we *be devoted to prayer* on one another's behalf this week?

Quotes to Ponder

We may advise, we may cite our own experiences, we may pray, we may point to the Word of God, we may seek to enlighten, but we may never command the conscience of another believer.

Donald Grey Barnhouse

Whatever tends to make anyone violate his conscience tends to the destruction of his soul; and he who helps, whether wittingly or not, to bring about the one is guilty of aiding to accomplish the other.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown

It is the unloving attitude of contemptuous superiority by strong believers and the equally unloving attitude of self-righteousness by weak believers by which they judge one another.

John MacArthur

The gift of freedom always comes in the plain wrapping of responsibility.

Charles Swindoll

My conscience is held captive to the Word of God ... to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.

Martin Luther

The Christian life is one full of freedom, but that freedom should not be the occasion of offense to a brother whose conscience is weak. Freedom is to be limited by Christian love.

S. Lewis Johnson

The people who want to control others actually hinder evangelistic efforts because they give the impression that Christianity is about keeping rules and regulations. They tell others that they cannot be "true believers" unless they conform to their opinions on secondary issues. This buries the true gospel of God's grace and mercy. These people suck the freedom, life, and vitality out of the church if we let them. We must NOT surrender our freedom to these people because it encourages them in their narrow-mindedness.

Bruce Goettsche



Message #112: *Stumbling Blocks*

April 30, 2017

Sermon
Notes

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. What is the contrast found in *Romans 14:13*?

3. Whose responsibility is it to make sure that an *obstacle* or *stumbling block* is not put in front of another Christian (*Romans 14:13*)?

4. Read *1 Corinthians 8:4-11*. What example of a stumbling block does Paul discuss here?

How does a strong believer create a guilty conscience in a weak believer (*1 Corinthians 8:9-11*)?

What is his conclusion in *1 Corinthians 8:12-13*?

Who are you sinning against if you wound the conscience of a weaker brother?

5. What does Paul mean when he says, *nothing is unclean in itself* (*Romans 14:14*)?

6. How does a clean thing become an unclean thing (*Romans 14:14*)?

7. If you aren't sure whether something is allowable for you to do, should you do it? Why or why not (*Romans 14:14, 23*)?

8. If you are sure that something is acceptable (neither required nor forbidden), what considerations might make it wrong to do in certain

circumstances (*Romans 14:13-15, 16, 19, 20-21*)?

9. What is Paul's point in *Romans 14:15a*?

10. What do these verses say about loving your fellow Christians?

Romans 12:9-10 —

Romans 13:8-10 —

Romans 12:16 —

1 John 2:10 —

11. What does it mean in *Romans 14:15b* when it says, *do not destroy*?

Are we to believe that the insensitivity of the strong toward the weak is enough to send a Christian to hell? Explain.

12. If a fellow Christian thinks you are doing something wrong but you are *fully convinced* it is okay for you to do it, should you change your behavior? Explain.

13. Sometimes it seems that whatever you do is bound to offend someone on both sides of an issue. What should you do then?

14. How do we maintain the balance between our freedoms and our love for those who are weaker and differ with us on these matters?

15. If we apply what Paul says, won't our conduct be controlled by the narrowest Christian in the church? Is this what Paul wants? Explain.

16. **Reflection Questions:** Is it difficult for me to accept the freedom of others without passing judgment? Has a stronger Christian ever