

Why do I sometimes demand my own way without thinking of others first? Which is more important to me: the spiritual health of another Christian or enjoying my freedoms in front of one who may be stumbling? Am I showing consideration for those who may have an opinion different than my own?

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



Message #114: *Build Up or Tear Down?*

May 21, 2017

Sermon
Notes

Quotes to Ponder

I think it is a healthy thing for a Christian who has liberty in some of these areas to indulge it on occasion. The cause of Christ is never advanced by having every strong Christian in a congregation completely forego his right to enjoy some of these things. What happens then is that the question is settled on the basis of the most narrow and most prejudiced person in the congregation. Soon, the gospel itself becomes identified with that view. That is why the outside world often considers Christians to be narrow-minded people who have no concern except to prevent the enjoyment of the good gifts God has given us.

Ray Stedman

Once we recognize that this is a "disputable" area, we should mind our own business instead of insisting that this dispute becomes the whole church's business.

Timothy Keller

We care best for others when we care most about God.

Mark Vaughan

For a Christian not a single decision and action can be good which he does not think he can justify on the ground of his Christian conviction and his liberty before God in Christ.

Herman Nicolaas Ridderbos

It may at times be a difficult practical question, whether most good would result from compliance with the prejudices of others, or from disregarding them. But where there is a sincere desire to do right, and a willingness to sacrifice our own inclinations for the good of others, connected with prayer for divine direction, there can be little danger of serious mistake.

Charles Hodge

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1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. What is the overriding principle which should guide our behavior when we disagree over these matters of opinion (*Romans 14:19*)?
3. What are we to pursue (*Romans 14:19*)?

How do we do this?

4. What is *the work of God* in *Romans 14:20*?
5. What are the *all things* that *are clean* (*Romans 14:20*)?
6. How do *clean things* become *evil* or *unclean* (*Romans 14:14, 20*)?
7. Why is it good to limit our liberties out of love for our brother (*Romans 14:21*)?
8. In *Romans 14:22*, what is *the faith* referring to?
9. What does *Hebrews 11:6* teach about faith?

10. What is a *conviction*?
11. What is the importance of having *your own conviction* (*Romans 14:22*)?
12. Why is being “convictionless” a problem?
13. How do we *condemn* ourselves (*Romans 14:22-23*)?
14. What is the *doubt* of *Romans 14:23* referring to?
15. What does the phrase mean, *whatever is not from faith is sin* (*Romans 14:23*)?
16. What does *Romans 14:23* say is sin? Why is it sin?
17. Who is the ultimate judge in areas of Christian liberty? Explain.
18. Why do you think Paul spends so much time on this issue? Why is it so potentially damaging to judge or despise another Christian over non-essential issues?
19. **Reflection Questions:** How can I pursue peace within my church community more actively? What specifically can I do to build up others?