

ROMANS 14: 10-18 THE LAW OF LIBERTY – THE LAW OF LOVE - “WHY DO YOU JUDGE YOUR BROTHER”?

OBSERVATION

Liberty of Christ Excludes Judgment of Others:
Rom 14:10 But why do you judge your brother?

Why – what, how or when- what is the reason for you judging (*krin*) - passing a sentence against your brother (*adelphos*)

Or why do you show contempt for your brother?

Second question – why do you show contempt (to despise) for your brother

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. The rest of the answer or reason of why we are not to pass sentence or show contempt (despise) to a brother....We all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ!

Rom 14:11 For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, It has been written in the Scriptures (*Is. 45.23*) The LORD is speaking that as surely or certainly as the LORD lives that what follows will happen.

EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,

Every (no exceptions) shall bow to the LORD JESUS

AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD."

Every tongue shall confess or give praise to GOD. There are no exceptions.

Rom 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Each shall give an account of himself to God.

The Liberty of Christ Exercises Love to Others: Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve (determine - decide) **this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.** So then, let us not judge anyone anymore, but rather decide that we will not cause a brother to stumble or to fall.

INTERPRETATION

V. 9 Christ is the Lord of the living and the dead – contrast “But why”? First of two why questions. Considering that Christ is who He is and is the Lord of the living and the dead, why do you pass sentence on your brother? What is your motive in doing this?

Again the second question is asked in the same context - if the Christ is the Lord of all, living and dead, why do we despise (v. 3, same original word) a brother

Why judge (pass sentence), why show contempt (despise) your brother because we all (believer and unbeliever alike) shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ - John 5:22; 2Tim. 4:1; Believers -- 2 Cor. 5:10; Unbelievers – Rev. 20

An absolute promise from the LORD – Previously written in the Scriptures by the prophet Isaiah, (Is. 45:18-25) 700 years earlier, as surely as the LORD lives, (“As I live” or as I swear by Myself) pay close attention to the promise that follows!

Every (all) knee shall bow (bend) to the Lord Jesus. There are no exceptions!! (Phil. 2:5-11) Believers will bow to eternal life, because of what He has done for us! Unbelievers will bow to eternal separation from Him!!!

Again, every (all) tongue shall confess or give praise to the Lord Jesus, who is God!!! Note the equivalency between Jesus and God here!! (Is. 45, 15, 21) There are no exceptions!! (Phil. 2:5-11) Believers will bow to eternal life, because of what He has done for us! Unbelievers will bow to eternal separation from Him!!!

We each will give an account of ourselves to Him! (1 Peter 4:5) and NOT an account of others! For believers – of what we did with the possessions/ opportunities/gifts that He has given us. These will pass through the fire (motives) and whatever remains will be all that matters!

Primary responsibility - Therefore let us not judge one another any more. Let us decide to abandon such a practice. Judgment belongs to the Lord. He will condemn those who are guilty. Let us promote one another’s spiritual interests and not be a cause or means of hindering each other. We could possibly cause another to abandon the gospel, stumbling them over rites and ceremonies or traditions, causing great damage over non essential things.

APPLICATION

May I leave the judging to the Lord regardless of my reaction of the flesh – Lord, let me love them and You judge them!

May we not despise or show contempt for a brother but may I love him as the Lord has commanded.

Lord, please help me to understand that the judging (passing sentence) is all Yours. I am not to do that or show contempt to anyone, but know that you will judge them. Am I ready to stand at Your judgment seat? How ready am I?

Meditate, understand and be attentive to this promise of God which follows!

Every single human being will bow the knee and confess that Jesus is LORD --- Jews, Gentiles, Saved, Unsaved, -alike! There are NO exceptions!!

Am I ready to give that account?

Again, let us love and let God judge. Let us not call someone to stumble or fall over these non essential things that we may be disagreeing over.

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Rom 14:14 I know(oida) and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself;

Without a doubt there is nothing unclean of itself! **but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.** But if one thinks or believes something is unclean, to him it is!

Rom 14:15a Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love.

You are no longer practicing love if you are grieving someone because of what you are eating.

Rom 14:15b Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Over a small thing, such as what we eat, we can cause devastation to others

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; So, do not let our liberty in Christ and freedom from the law, which is good, be used to destroy another.

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, The present kingdom is not in what we eat and what we drink **but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** But the substance, the very essence is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Serving Christ in righteousness, peace and joy is acceptable and is approved by men.

INTERPRETATION

1 Cor. 10:23-31 I know and stand persuaded in the Lord Jesus, not by mere rational processed, I know that I know by divine revelation—there is nothing unclean (common) of itself. Even if a believer is wrongfully convinced that certain behavior is sinful, when it isn't, he shouldn't do it as it would violate his conscience and cause guilt.

1 Cor. 8:1-13 Love edifies, whereas knowledge puffs up. If we grieve someone because of our practices in either eating or doing things, we destroy our witness and are no longer walking in love. **John 13:17** Love will ensure that the believer is sensitive and understanding as to another's weakness. Our response to the hurting.

As stated in **1 Cor. 8:11**, we can cause serious devastation to the spiritual growth of another. When we through judgment of another come against them, we are really coming against that for which Christ died.

Romans 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21 If we put food and drink before the fruit of the Spirit which is love, righteousness, peace and joy, we are totally out of touch with God's priorities and His heart. “The letter kills but the spirit gives life!” **2 Cor. 3:6** We must not major in the minors, being legalistic about what we eat or drink, as being the main thing. Realization as to what is really important.

1 Cor. 4:21 The present kingdom is not in the legalistic rituals which so many practice and emphasize in the flesh, but it's righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Jn. 12:26 Our relationship to Christ. - Living a life of righteousness, peace and joy is acceptable to God and man. “Approved by men” means approving something after careful examination. We Christians are under the microscope of the world. If we are living what we believe, those qualities of righteousness peace and joy will generally be approved by men.

APPLICATION

Be careful in not stumbling someone even if you're sure that the behavior in and of itself is not sinning according to the Word.

Let us indeed be careful not to destroy our witness by grieving others by our practices and legalistic views. We want to love and not to destroy our walk in love.

As in **Heb. 10:24**— Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not judging and condemning

Let us serve God with the right heart for His love, righteousness, peace and joy, which is acceptable in His sight and is approved by men!

Don't get hung up in legalism, but be dead to the flesh and live in the Spirit. Let us be characterized by our righteousness peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!

May we live Godly, soberly and righteously **Titus 2:11-14**

Summary: As to the law of liberty in Christ, it excludes judging (passing sentence) others and embraces loving others! “Lord, let me love them and You judge them”!

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Questions:

Will everyone stand before the same judgment seat?

Why will every knee bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ?

Will each of us be required to give an account of ourselves to God? For anyone else?

If your brother is grieved because of the food you eat, are you continuing to walk in love?

What is meant by “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteous and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”?