

**BALANCING LIBERTY WITH LOVE****Romans 14:13-15****MAIN IDEA:** In exercising your Christian liberty, demonstrate your love to others.

9/18/16

***Principles of Christian Liberty:***

- ❖ Don't make your own personal preferences the standard for others to follow (Rom. 14:1-4).
- ❖ Examine your convictions to be sure that they are biblical and not merely borrowed from others (Rom. 14:5).
- ❖ Make glorifying God the purpose for everything that you do (Rom. 14:6-9).
- ❖ You are personally accountable to God for everything that you do (Rom. 14:10-12).
- ❖ You must exercise great care not to \_\_\_\_ the sensitive \_\_\_\_\_ of another (Rom. 14:13-15).

***Paul's Focus in These Principles:***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ How you hold your _____ (Rom. 14:1-5) (principles 1-2)</li> <li>❖ How you are responsible to _____ in how you live (Rom. 14:6-12) (principles 3-4)</li> <li>❖ How you are responsible to _____ in how you live (Rom. 14:13-23) (principles 5-8)</li> </ul> |
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**I. THERE IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO MAKE: not to allow your \_\_\_\_\_ to make your brother \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 14:13; cp. I Cor. 8:9, 13).**

- A. It begins with a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Rom. 14:13a).
- B. It does not involve causing a mere \_\_\_\_\_, but rather laying a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the path of another (cp. Rom. 14:13b).
  - This does not refer to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ a brother by your behavior.
  - This refers to leading another to \_\_\_\_\_ his own conscience by following your \_\_\_\_\_ and doing what your conscience \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. I Cor. 8:7-13).

**II. THERE IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO RESPECT: the conscience of the \_\_\_\_\_ brother (Rom. 14:14; cp. I Cor. 8:4-7, 10-12; 10:27-29).**

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ brother has a \_\_\_\_\_ of truth which enables him to act (Rom. 14:14a; cp. I Cor. 8:4-7).
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ brother has a \_\_\_\_\_ in his thinking which restricts his action (Rom. 14:14b).

**III. THERE IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO DEMONSTRATE: out of \_\_\_\_\_ limit your \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 14:15; cp. Gal. 5:13).**

- A. What you \_\_\_\_\_ do: don't \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ your brother.
  - What this does to your brother
    - It \_\_\_\_\_ him—brings him \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - It \_\_\_\_\_ him—not bringing loss of \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ to his relationship with God (cp. I Cor. 8:11-12).
  - What this demonstrates in your life
    - A lack of \_\_\_\_\_ for your brother
    - A lack of appreciation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of your brother
- B. What is \_\_\_\_\_: not \_\_\_\_\_, but your \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Rom. 14:17, 20)
  - There is no spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ from food (cp. I Cor. 8:8).
  - There is eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in your brother (cp. I Cor. 8:11).

- ❖ Make a solid \_\_\_\_\_ not to allow your liberty to make your brother stumble. In which situations do you need to limit your liberty for the sake of another?
- ❖ Between exercising your liberty for the sake of principle and limiting your liberty for the sake of a brother. Know the difference between the legalist who wants to enslave you and the weaker brother who needs protection.
- ❖ Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ your liberty in order to exercise love to your brother. What effect will your actions have on a weaker brother? Which is more important: your brother or your own preferences?

## BALANCING LIBERTY WITH LOVE

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**MAIN IDEA:** In exercising your Christian liberty, demonstrate your love to others.

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**Principles of Christian Liberty:**

- ❖ Don't make your own personal preferences the standard for others to follow (Rom. 14:1-4).
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- ❖ Make glorifying God the purpose for everything that you do (Rom. 14:6-9).
- ❖ You are personally accountable to God for everything that you do (Rom. 14:10-12).
- ❖ You must exercise great care not to harm the sensitive conscience of another (Rom. 14:13-15).

**Paul's Focus in These Principles:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ How you hold your convictions (Rom. 14:1-5) (principles 1-2)</li> <li>❖ How you are responsible to God in how you live (Rom. 14:6-12) (principles 3-4)</li> <li>❖ How you are responsible to others in how you live (Rom. 14:13-23) (principles 5-8)</li> </ul> |
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- I. **THERE IS A DECISION TO MAKE: not to allow your liberty to make your brother stumble (Rom. 14:13; cp. I Cor. 8:9, 13).**
    - A. It begins with a *decision or resolve* (cp. Rom. 14:13a).
    - B. It does not involve causing a mere *offense*, but rather laying a spiritual *obstacle* in the path of another (cp. Rom. 14:13b).
      - This does not refer to displeasing or offending a brother by your behavior.
      - This refers to leading another to violate his own conscience by following your example and doing what your conscience allows (cp. I Cor. 8:7-13).
  - II. **THERE IS A CONSCIENCE TO RESPECT: the conscience of the weaker brother (Rom. 14:14; cp. I Cor. 8:4-7, 10-12; 10:27-29).**
    - A. The *strong* brother has a *recognition* of truth which enables him to act (Rom. 14:14a; cp. I Cor. 8:4-7).
    - B. The *weak* brother has a *reservation* in his thinking which restricts his action (Rom. 14:14b).
  - III. **THERE IS A LOVE TO DEMONSTRATE: out of love limit your liberty (Rom. 14:15; cp. Gal. 5:13).**
    - A. What you *shouldn't* do: don't *grieve* nor *destroy* your brother.
      - *What this does to your brother*
        - It *grieves* him—brings him *sadness* and *distress*.
        - It *destroys* him—not bringing loss of *salvation* but *damage* to his relationship with God (cp. I Cor. 8:11-12).
      - *What this demonstrates in your life*
        - A lack of *love* for your brother
        - A lack of appreciation of the *value* of your brother
    - B. What is *important*: not *food*, but your *brother* (cp. Rom. 14:17, 20)
      - There is no spiritual profit from food (cp. I Cor. 8:8).
      - There is eternal value in your brother (cp. I Cor. 8:11).
- ❖ Make a solid commitment not to allow your liberty to make your brother stumble. In which situations do you need to limit your liberty for the sake of another?
- ❖ Discern between exercising your liberty for the sake of principle and limiting your liberty for the sake of a brother. Know the difference between the legalist who wants to enslave you and the weaker brother who needs protection.
- ❖ Be willing to limit your liberty in order to exercise love to your brother. What effect will your actions have on a weaker brother? Which is more important: your brother or your own preferences?