

## Family Business | Romans 14:1–15:7

### The Heart of Christian Living (12:1–2)

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

### The Holistic Scope of Christian Living

- a. In Relation to the Variety of Gifts in the Church: *from Self-Importance to Sober Stewardship* (12:3–8)
- b. In Relation Life Together in the Church: *from Being Overcome by Evil to Overcoming Evil with Good* (12:9–21)
- c. In Relation to Governing Authorities in the City: *from Resisting Civil Authorities to Respecting Them* (13:1–7)
- d. In Relation to Fulfilling the Law in This Age: *from Deeds of Darkness to Love in the Light* (13:8–14)
- e. In Relation to Unity amid Diverse Convictions in the Church: *from Selfish Tearing Down to Self-Sacrificial Building Up* (14:1–15:7)

### The Hope of Christian Living (15:8–13)

#### 1. Family-Business Resolutions (14:1–15:2)

- a. (14:1–2) Resolve always to **welcome** the weak in faith, not **quarrel** with them

Customs of the weak in Roman church

Customs of the strong in Roman church

“the weak in faith” = someone whose understanding of Scripture’s ethical teaching in light of Christ’s coming is less mature

“the strong in faith” = someone whose understanding of Scripture’s ethical teaching in light of Christ’s coming is more mature

Paul’s different posture toward those demanding

\*observance of Mosaic law for justification (*Gal 2*)

vs.

\*observance of Mosaic law as a help in progressive sanctification

- b. (14:3–12) Resolve never to **begrudge** the weaker or **judge** the stronger

Why?

Position of Every Believer (*v. 3*)

Position of Christ Alone (*vv. 4–9*)

Prospect of Every Person (*vv. 10–12*)

c. (14:13–23) Resolve never to trip up, but build up

Why?

Principle of Conscience (v. 14, 22–23)

Potential Harm (v. 15, 20)

Priority of Kingdom (vv. 17–18)

**Two Tests for Discernment ala Romans 12:2**

- Does Scripture permit this attitude or action? (*LAW test*)
- Is this attitude or action useful for building up my brother or sister in love? (*LOVE test*)

d. (15:1–3) Resolve always to give yourself, not please yourself

Why?

Propitiation in Christ

Pattern of Christ

**2. Family-Business Resources (15:3–7)**

- (15:3) The experience and example of Christ’s self-sacrificial love
- (15:4) The encouragement of the Scriptures
- (15:5–6) The empowerment of God’s blessing
- (15:7) The end: for God’s glory

**Human Conscience**

- Universal Gift  
*(Rom 1:14–16)*
- Moral Gift  
*A person’s inner consciousness testifying to what she believes is right and wrong*
- Serious Gift
- Fallible Gift  
*Thus, a gift that must be subordinated to God’s Word (Titus 1:5)*
- Moldable Gift  
*Desensitizing/Searing (1 Tim 4:2)  
Suppressing (Rom 1:18)  
Purifying/Sensitizing (Heb 9:14)*

**Train** | “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.” 14:5b

**Respect Another’s Scripture-Informed Conscience** | “The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.” 14:6 (cf. 1 Cor 8:12)

**Respect Your Scripture-Informed Conscience** | “I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.” 14:14

“Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.” 14:22b–23

**3. Family-Business Returns (15:8–13) (next Wednesday ...)**

**Table Discussion: 1, b, c, 5, 6, 12, 14, h**

*If time: "Getting Personal" on pg. 136; Questions f, g*