

Memorial Day: Choosing Love Over Liberty and Faith Over Freedom (Romans 14:13-23)

Pastor Deric

(13) Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer; but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

(14) 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.

(15) For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

(16) So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. (17) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

(18) Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (19) So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (20) Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

(21) It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (22) The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

(23) 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. [Romans 14:13-23]

*(1) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...
...(13) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [Galatians 5:1, 13-14]*

(13) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [John 15:13]

Practical Application

1. Remember those who have sacrificed out of love and to preserve religious freedom. Thank God for them, for liberty, and for freedom.
2. Enjoy God, liberty, freedom, family, friends, food, and all the good gifts He has given you.
3. Consider how you will be remembered 100 years from now?
4. Will you choose love over liberty and faith over freedom?
5. Love people, spread faith, serve Jesus Christ, live fully for Him.
6. God is the ultimate judge, not us. Joyfully love others instead of judging them over matters of opinion.
7. Decide today to help others experience the love and liberty they can have in Jesus Christ. Decide today to not be a barrier or to put a barrier between anyone and Jesus.
8. You are free in Jesus. Jesus brings freedom.
9. Let your mind be renewed, instructed, and informed by the teachings of Jesus found in the Bible.
10. Choose family and friends over food and personal freedom. Choose love over liberty if necessary.

11. Be conscientious of other people around you for the sake of the gospel and their good.
12. Do good, give grace, and point others to God in all your ways.
13. The Kingdom of God is not about food and drink. It is about doing what is right, spreading peace, and bringing joy by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.
14. The Holy Spirit brings love and liberty and faith and freedom both now and forever.
15. Serve Jesus Christ with all your heart, and serve the people that He has loved and served through His life, death, and resurrection.
16. Christian, you have been accepted by God. Therefore, accept others where they are and patiently help them get to where God wants them to be.
17. Pursue peace. Pursue love. Pursue growth in yourself and in others.
18. The faith and freedom of others should be more important to us than food.
19. If meat or wine causes another person to stumble then lovingly refrain from meat and wine. Choose love over liberty, faith over food, and worship over wine.
20. Live for God in all you do. Let faith drive all your decisions.
21. Rest in Jesus. He died for our sins. He died for our imperfect faith. Jesus loves you more than anyone else loves you. We all need Jesus.

Announcements

-Kid's summer Soccer Camp will be June 10-12 (6-8pm).

-Kid's summer Art Camp will be July 15-18 (5:30-8pm).

-No regular Wednesday night activities over the Summer Break.

-Our Youth Group meets each Wednesday night from 6-7:30. See David Barrero for more info.

-Please be praying for Michael and Elijah Garrison as they go on a mission trip to love and serve the Navajo people in New Mexico with Word of Life Ministry alongside Wayne and Kim Price. The trip is June 23-July 8th.

-All of our Small Groups meet weekly. See our small group guide to find one that is best for you.