

Romans 14:3-5

Liberty in the Lord

1. 14:3 - Despise Not

- a. Weak in the faith lack knowledge/understanding, but the knowledgeable can lack charity.
- b. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty - 2 Cor 3:17, Gal 2:4, 5:1
- c. Liberty can be used for bad - Gal 5:13, 1 Cor 8:9 10:23-29
- d. Liberty can be used to the good of others by choosing to edify - 1 Cor 10:23-32
 - i. Eats all things = strong in faith, despises limitations on liberty (e.g. Gentile)
 - ii. Eats herbs = weak in faith, judges liberty as lascivious/rebellion (e.g. Jew/religious)
- e. *"not... despise him"* - why? God has received him. Weak and strong are both in the Lord.

2. 14:4 - Judge Not

- a. *"Judge not"* used by fools as a weapon to defend personal choice/sin, but...
 - i. God will judge all men; sin is not justified - Rom 2:16
 - ii. Matt 7:1 speaks to hypocrisy not liberty ← under the law, Spirit not yet given
 - iii. 1 Cor 2:15 - The spiritual (strong) judge all things yet are judged of no man (liberty)
- b. Rom 14:3 is where 'judge not' is instructed for liberty's sake (but it is about believers)
 - i. Paul instructs the weak (eating herbs) not to judge, for *"God hath received him"*
 - ii. God received Gentiles, and their eating (not idols) - Rom 15:16, 1Co 9:2, 2 Tim 1:11
- c. *"who art thou that judgest"* - like Rom 2:1, 17-18, judging on the basis of the law.
 - i. If his judgment is allowed, then his weakness will become wrong - Col 2:17, Gal 4:9
- d. *"another man's servant"* - He does not answer to you (Jew, law), but to the Lord of liberty.
- e. *"he shall be holden up"* - As He holds up Israel under the law - Ps 18:35, 37:17, Isa 40:29
- f. *"God is able to make him stand"* under grace Rom 5:1, Gal 5:1, 2Co 1:24, 1Th 3:8

3. 14:5 - Let Every Man Be Fully Persuaded

- a. *"every man"* - This does not deny right/wrong, excuse ignorance, allow error
 - i. This speaks to every man being in Christ, and stands by faith - 2 Cor 1:24
 - ii. The weak have liberty also. We receive all men to edify not to wound or destroy.
- b. *"be fully persuaded"* - An admonition to learn and grow in truth (a challenge to the weak)
 - i. Being uncertain, doubtful, unsure is what describes the weak in the faith.
 - ii. Operating under grace doesn't establish priesthood, religion, dominion over others.
- c. *"in his own mind"* - Personal conscience, understanding, faith - Col 1:9, 2:2
 - i. To be persuaded is to have full confidence, certain, convinced, assured.
 - ii. How to be? Let God be true, believe the Bible, consider Paul - Rom 3:4, 2 Tim 2:7
 - iii. What is used to persuade? All scripture, teaching, Christ. Col 1:28, 2:3-7, 2 Cor 5:11
- d. This ministry requires gentleness, apt to teach, patience, meekness - 2 Tim 2:24-25
 - i. In other words, be charitable - 1 Cor 8:1, 13:4-6