



PART 52

BUILD UP!

ROMANS 14:13-23

Build believers _____, not _____.

WEAK: Doubts..... STRONG: Approves

Build up others in _____ love.

Romans 14:13, *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. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Pass judgement** | condemnation, disapproval
- ✳ **Decide** | the same word translated judgment (13a) but used here as a positive decision to help
- ✳ **Stumbling block or hindrance in the way** | a cause of offense or obstacle that distracts or detours from harmony in the body of Christ

Romans 14:14, *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. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Nothing is unclean in itself** | In Christ prior dietary prohibitions are declared clean and acceptable. (See Acts 10:11-16; 1 Corinthians 8:8-9)
- ✳ **Unclean** | subjective perception of a violation, even if the person's thinking is wrong

Romans 14:15 *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. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Grieved** | experiencing tension, distress, or hurt because of the example/conviction/behavior of another believer; grieving takes the focus off of growth by focusing on a conflict
- ✳ **Walking in love** | a lifestyle of Christ-like concern and care that advances other's spiritual well being, sacrificially helping others in their spiritual forward momentum
- ✳ **Destroy** | devastate spiritually; to ruin, defeat, cause spiritual harm to the sensitive believer's scruples and relational harmony.

Romans 14:16, *So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Regard as good** | the positive conviction of spiritual freedom held by the participating believer
- ✳ **Spoken of as evil** | blasphemy, the negative assessment proclaimed by the nonparticipating observer

Build up others with kingdom _____.

Romans 14:17, *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)*

- ✳ **The kingdom of God** | the realm where God's priorities are being applied in the lives of believers
- ✳ **Eating and drinking** | the realm of individual choices of food/drink in this life (temporal things)

- ✳ **Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit** | doing what is right in Christ and the relational tranquility and delight we share in Christ by means of the Spirit of holiness (eternal realities)

Romans 14:18, *Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Thus serves Christ** | serve as a slave, living for Christ, focusing on his eternal priorities (see v. 17).
- ✳ **Acceptable to God** | within the parameters of God's will, pleasing to God
- ✳ **Approved by men** | affirmed or approved by people after examination/observation of how we relate

Romans 14:19, *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Pursue what makes for peace** | making an continuing effort, active commitment to the goal of relational peace (non-conflict) and the process of reaching it. Backing off on secondary matters that are neither moral, ethical or critical, but are options/elective.
- ✳ **Mutual upbuilding** | believers choosing to spiritually strengthen other believers, helping others progress in spiritual growth

Build others up by _____.

Romans 14:20, *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. (ESV)*

- ✳ **For the sake of food, destroy** | destruction of boundaries, making food a higher priority than the work of God in another believer's life, overthrowing convictions and principled ideals.
- ✳ **Make another stumble** | to cause another believer to act contrary to their conscience, fall into sin

Romans 14:21, *It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Eat meat or drink wine or do anything** | an expanded list of sensitivities (disputed matters)
- ✳ **Stumble** | causing a non-participating believer to act contrary to their sensibilities by following your's. We operate from biblical conviction, not social conformity.

Romans 14:22a, *The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. (ESV)*

- ✳ **The faith that you have** | your spiritual beliefs/convictions about secondary matters of practice
- ✳ **Keep between yourself and God** | a private matter/conviction

Build yourself up through _____.

Romans 14:22a, *Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Blessed** | favorable internal state of mind of being approved before God; without self-judgment
- ✳ **No reason to pass judgement on himself** | no violation of conscience or guilt for relational impact
- ✳ **Approves** | the conviction that frees a person to chose to participate

Romans 14:23, *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. (ESV)*

- ✳ **Doubts** | unsure, uncertain, wavering in matters of conscience toward God
- ✳ **Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin** | the clear conviction of God's approval to act or abstain. The Spirit uses the Word of God to affirm or condemn our thoughts, choices, or actions.

HOW TO BUILD OTHERS UP WHEN A DEBATABLE ISSUE COMES UP:

Relate to others in _____ love rather than having to impose your viewpoint and practices.

Prioritize _____ values and issues of importance.

Learn to keep matters of _____ to yourself and not exercise your freedom if it _____ impacts another.

Be _____ in practice with what you've formed in conscience from the Word.