

Striking the Balance
Romans 14:1-17; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Christian Liberty becomes evident in the areas of Principle and Preference

There are several important issues here

Paul is discussing our relationship to a **weaker** brother, not to a **disobedient** brother

These issues are not addressed in Scripture and thus are areas of Christian Liberty

The believer is accountable to God, not to other believers

"Do not offend your brother"

Liberty, Not Rights

Conclusion

Some acts, themselves neutral, can become either right or wrong because of other principles in Scripture which come to bear upon the specific situation.

1 Cor 8:1

While some activities may thus be seen to be morally neutral, each of these can become right or wrong because of an underlying motivational factor.

Governing principles for liberty

Use liberty when it is profitable, not merely convenient.

Use, but do not abuse the world – Jn 17:11, 16, 18

Do not use liberty for your own gratification.

Enjoy, but do not love the world – 1 Jn 2:15-17

Use liberty to benefit others first.

Never hinder the growth of another Christian – 1 Cor 8:13

Do all to the glory of God – 1 Cor 10:31

Follow Paul's example – 1 Cor 11:1

Actions + Academics = Intellectual Do-gooder

Actions + Attitude = Ignorant Do-gooder

Attitude + Academics = Arrogant Intellectualism

Academics (Knowing) + Attitude (Being) + Actions (Doing) = True Spirituality