

Romans # 184

“God’s Judgment Seat”

*Romans 14:7-12; John 17:20-23*

Born-again believers shouldn’t be relativists.

In the body of Christ in many ways we differ, yet we are bound together by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and God’s imputed righteousness; bound together in our different stages of spiritual growth and different amounts of biblical truth in our souls by the RFHC.

*The RFHC demands that those who have grown up spiritually, tolerate the weak and require that the weak not judge the strong.*

To deny distinction between essential and non-essential truths is to live in inflexible puritanical arrogance but differences regarding diet or holy days must never be a reason for denying a believer correct Bible teaching.

Whether weak or strong, we are bound together in the body of Christ for the purpose of mutual advance to maturity and glorifying the Lord and our goal should always overshadow any differences of opinions between us regarding non-essentials.

*It is much worse to be indifferent to the Word than to be positive and wrong in the application of truth.*

All believers have freedom to advance to maturity but all believers don’t use that freedom to follow the plan of God for advancement but as soon as they do, they create inequality.

Some believers are mature, some are immature; some are positive, some negative toward the Word and that’s the basis for the inequality but everyone is free to have the same chance.

*Living for the Lord demands one thing; not that we be moral, sweet, loving or kind; it simply demands that we take in His Word and allow that along with the filling of the Holy Spirit to change us.*

Christian love is impersonal in contrast to personal love which emphasizes the object of love; while impersonal love emphasizes the standards, integrity and honor of the one who does the loving.

By judging the strong believer, the weak believer attempts to validate his false standards and by reacting and despising or regarding with contempt the weak believer, the strong believer lowers himself to the standards of the weak believer.

*Impersonal love treats fellow-believers on the basis of our integrity, not on the basis of their weaknesses.*

Respect for the righteousness of God in other believers means respecting the privacy and freedom of the royal priesthood, toleration of non-essential opinions and treating people based on our own standards, not theirs, which is true impersonal love for the brethren as TLJC commanded.

Conflict and strife over non-essential opinions is foolish as there are so many things in life that are not essential but biblical truth is essential.

We should be inflexible regarding the Word and our intake of it.

*Therefore each of us is responsible for his own life before the Lord and not responsible for the life of another; as illustrated by the Judgment Seat of Christ.*

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, the justice of God deals with each stage of growth separately based on what happened, the knowable and what would have happened if we had lived a full life, i.e. the unknowable.

The Christian life does not command a personality change and there’s no such thing as the Christian personality.

Too many times we judge someone by our background standards.

The farther we advance in our Christian walk, the less influence our background and environment will have on our standards of conscience and our thinking.

*GOOD NEWS: If we stay focused on the plan of God, eventually we’ll be able to appreciate people from every walk of life and in every situation in life and we will begin to be so flexible regarding personality differences and so thoughtful and sensitive to others around us, that we will truly fulfill God’s principle of unity.*