

Romans # 185

“Pleasing God and Men This Time”

*Romans 14:13-18*

**Often, when non-essentials are very important convictions, it’s because one has little or no biblical truth to change his scale of values.**

Judging is a potential hazard for the believer who measures all other believers by his own inadequacies or weaknesses.

*With false standards, it’s impossible to be accurate in evaluation of anything but evaluating others is not the issue; the real issue is the RFHC which demands that all believers be given the privacy of their priesthood and be impersonally loved by us.*

Instinctively, strong believers should make right decisions and do the right things.

As we grow spiritually, we become aware of the feelings of other people and we make their feelings much more important than our own, so in growing up spiritually, the weak must recognize the privacy of the strong and the strong must demonstrate impersonal love and tolerance for the weak.

**Under the Mosaic law, certain foods were forbidden and to eat them was to be ceremonially unclean but in the Church Age, the standards the royal family have from background and environment are replaced by biblical standards at spiritual maturity.**

Food is not unclean by itself; it can however become unclean while being prepared or contaminated by improper storage but food always has to have something added to it to contaminate it.

*Biblical truth in the soul changes the standards of the conscience, so we never violate our own taboos unless we have a biblical basis for doing so.*

We don’t have flexibility on the non-essentials until we have biblical truth, first.

**Lack of biblical truth in the soul has a tendency to destroy all capacity for life and enslave believers with the shackles of a weak conscience.**

The more we advance in the Christian life, the more flexible our application becomes in the non-essentials and the more tolerant we become of the weak.

*The weak is wrong in arrogant hypersensitivity being offended by the strong eating meat in his presence because he has his eyes on people rather than on the Lord.*

**The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross emphasizes not only grace but also that long before us, Jesus was inconvenienced by weak believers.**

The servant is not greater than his master; if Jesus was inconvenienced by weak believers on the cross and before the cross, it’s not a comparable sacrifice for the strong to take responsibility in removing distractions from the weak, so the issue is always, the Word of God.

**Eating and drinking are normal and good to sustain the body, so to observe a taboo about something good becomes legalistic arrogance.**

Since eating and drinking do not sustain the soul, they are not an issue in the spiritual life;

**the issue is what sustains the soul and that's biblical truth.**

***We relate to the integrity of God; His righteousness and justice, the point of reference for all believers since the fall of Adam.***

**The justice of God could not even accept us until we were as good as God and the only way we could be as good as God is to have God's perfection, so at salvation, the justice of God imputed His righteousness to us.**

**And when the justice of God looks down and sees that we have the righteousness of God in us, the justice of God declares us justified; the first act of the justice of God in our new relationship with Him.**