

“Personal Freedom is Not Our Highest Priority”

Romans 14 – *Pastor Seth Swartzendruber*

The Command – Walk in love by prioritizing communal peace and mutual upbuilding over your personal freedom (Christian liberty)

- Your personal freedom should *always* take a backseat and be put away, not even to be quarreled about... when it will cause a brother or sister to stumble.
- Most of us do well to ask ourselves the question: “Can I partake of this or that with a clean conscience?”
- But we must never neglect the equally important question with an even higher priority in Scripture: “Will I cause my brother or sisters faith to stumble or be destroyed if I partake in this or of that?”

Where does this apply?

- Our _____ (14:1)
- Our _____ (14:3, 13)
- Our _____ (14:21)

Matters of Conscience (Christian Liberty)

- What things are not to be viewed as a matter of conscience or personal freedom?
 - o When we receive clear Biblical commands, we do not have liberty to disagree
 - o There is no room for disagreement over breaking God's law(s) either
 - o Cf. Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5-8, Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 28:18-20, etc.

- Matters of conscience or personal freedom (which we readily give up around our brothers + sisters in Christ)
 - o Alcohol
 - o Some forms of dancing
 - o Eating or dieting (vegetarians, pescatarian, etc.)
 - o Homeschooling
 - o Vaccines
 - o Parenting philosophy
 - o Forms of discipline (not discipline itself of course)
 - o Traditional vs. contemporary
 - o Barefoot shoes
 - o Caffeine
 - o Some health matters, like red dye
 - o Certain forms of entertainment