



## Romans

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### Lesson 20: Romans 14:13–23

While the Bible has clear commands that are black and white, there are also some things which we call gray areas. These are areas that the Bible neither commands nor condemns. This is where Christian liberty comes in. As Christians who are under the New Covenant, we have the freedom to enjoy all the good gifts God has given us to enjoy. However, we must never use our freedom to cause another believer to sin but must do all things with a heart of love and concern for our fellow Christian brothers and sisters. All believers, whether strong or weak, have a responsibility to live in mutual submission and refrain from judging one another's personal convictions. In Romans 14:13–23, Paul gives several principles that serve to help the body of Christ grow. Let's dive in and see what Paul has to say about Christian liberty and building up the church.

#### ➤ Read Romans 14:13–15

1. According to verse 13, what are the two negative commands Paul gives?
2. In verse 14, why does Paul tell the Romans he is “convinced in the Lord Jesus”? According to Acts 10:9–16, why would Paul be convinced of this?
3. In verse 14, what is Paul convinced of?
4. According to verse 14, what reason does Paul give for not judging another believer?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4–7. According to Romans 14:14, who is the person who “thinks anything to be unclean”?

6. According to verse 15, what should control our Christian liberties?
7. According to verse 15, when Christian liberty is practiced without love for your brother or sister in Christ, what is the result?

**Application:** What are some ways you can practice love toward brothers and sisters who have different personal convictions than you? Is this a struggle for you? Why or why not?

➤ **Read Romans 14:16–21**

8. According to verse 16, although Christian liberty is good, how can it also be bad?
9. According to verse 17, how does Paul describe the kingdom of God?
10. In verse 18, to what does Paul equate giving up your personal freedoms in Christ?
11. In verse 19, what is the goal for believers when it comes to issues of Christian liberty?
12. According to verse 20, how does a person's Christian liberty turn into sin?

**Application:** When thinking about topics of Christian liberty, what questions or thoughts do you have that motivate your final decision to practice your liberty or refrain? Give an example of how this has played out in your life.

13. In verse 21, what is Paul's conclusion about how to deal with a weaker Christian?

➤ **Read Romans 14:22–23**

14. In verse 22, how does Paul help us make our own decisions around Christian liberty?

15. According to verse 23, what is Paul's conclusion about doing something against your conscience?

**Application:** What are some gray areas that you need to develop your own conviction of before God? How will you go about this?

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.