



The present day is not particularly characterized by legal scruples, or by great tenderness of conscience.

It is rather a day of lawlessness and license. We are, perhaps, more often called upon to seek to bring a good conscience

into greater activity than we are to respect its scruples.

But the principles of this chapter, worked into our souls, are of great importance in relation to the spirit in which we walk together as brothers in Christ.



**“HOW TO HANDLE  
CHRISTIAN  
LIBERTY”**

## **Romans 14:1-3 (NASB77)**

<sup>1</sup> Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

<sup>2</sup> One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

<sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

## **Romans 14:4-12 (NASB77)**

<sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord,

for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>For not one of us lives unto himself, and not one dies unto himself;

<sup>8</sup>for if we live, we live unto the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

<sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived *again*, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**<sup>10</sup> But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

**<sup>11</sup> For it is written, " AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."**

**<sup>12</sup> So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.**



***<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.***

**Verse 14:13 is transitional.**

**Verses 14:13 to Chapter 5:2**

teaches us that there are

**9 exhortations by Paul to believers**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us **not judge one another anymore**, but rather **resolve this,**

**not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way**

**1. Stop judging doubtful things**

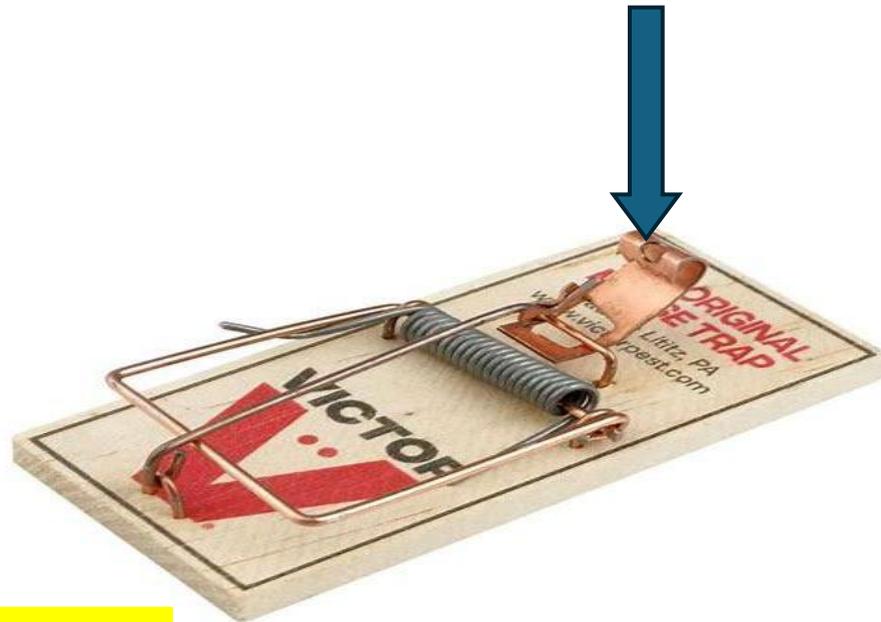
**2. Don't put a block in your brothers'**

**way**



Not to put a stumbling block to one's  
Brother or a trap

Trap-skaldon a trap stick



<sup>13</sup>Therefore **let us** not judge. Paul here sides  
with the strong.

***<sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.***

- **Notice the shift here** from objective observation “*<sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself*”
- **To** subjective observation- *but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean*



# ***1 Timothy 4:4-5 (NASB77)***

***4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;***

***5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer***



*<sup>15</sup>For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

### **3. Walk according to love**

*4. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

*<sup>15</sup>For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

**3. Walk according to love**

*4. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.*

# **1 Corinthians 8:7-13 (NASB77)**

***7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.***

***8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.***

***9 But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.***

***10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?***

***11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.***

***12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.***

***13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I might not cause my brother to stumble.***



***<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;***

**5. Let not then your good be evil spoken of—  
(literally, blasphemed)**

**“Good” here refers to the use of Christian liberty by those who are strong of faith, which is good and delightful to God in itself.**

# **1 Corinthians 10:25-28 (NASB77)**

***25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience' sake; 26 FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.***

***27 If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience' sake. 28 But if anyone should say to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience sake.***



*<sup>17</sup>for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*In saying the kingdom of God is not eating food and drinking, (it isn't that important)*

- ❖ **This is the act of eating**
- ❖ **Paul in one word sweeps the whole Christian platform clear of the waste of all the traditions of men.**



Man cannot even see the kingdom of  
God except by a new, “*down from above*”  
(another) BIRTH (John 3:3)!

And, since the Holy Spirit came at  
Pentecost, **believers are said to be in  
the Spirit—no longer in the flesh**—to  
which the earthly distinctions of meats  
and days pertained.

And note that the words here are not,

- righteousness in Christ — referring to our standing; but righteousness in the Holy Spirit— referring to our walk!

- joy in the Holy Spirit. “the kingdom of God,” now, is altogether in the Spirit!

- The Kingdom of God is peace in the Holy Spirit meaning action not standing.

- When the Kingdom of God comes this will be the characteristics of it.

***Romans 8:9 (NASB77)<sup>9</sup>However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.***),

**And in whose energy all the real operations of “the kingdom of God” now are!**

A wooden cross is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, set against a background of a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The text is overlaid on the sky background.

The important things are "*righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*"; we can afford to surrender personal liberty as to eating and drinking to further these things. It is in these things that we serve Christ and become "*acceptable to God and approved of men*".

No one can condemn me for refraining from using my personal liberty to secure the good of another!

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**1<sup>8</sup>For (the ones) he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.**

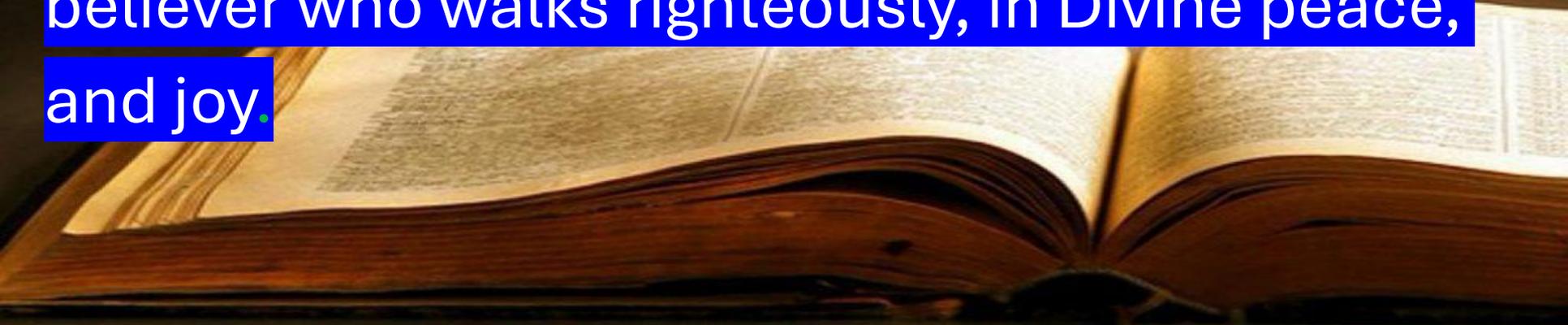
The one serving Christ—refers to **the condition of righteousness of life, peace of heart, and joy in God which those walking in the Spirit display.**

**AND further prove that Vv.17 has reference to practical walk, not to our standing in Christ.**

**But such service is made possible only since the coming of the Holy Spirit: therefore, “righteousness, peace, joy, in the Holy Spirit” is that service of Christ which delights God.**

**And approved of men—DOKIMOS—**

**Men will not always admit it, but they approve a believer who walks righteously, in Divine peace, and joy.**



***19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.***

**The word “pursue” is a strong word, generally used for persecute, follow hard after, like in hunting.**

***6. then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.***

**1 Timothy 6:10 <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some **by longing for it** have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many a pang.**

**2 Timothy 2:22 <sup>22</sup> Now flee from youthful lusts, and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

**Ephesians 4:29 (NASB77) <sup>29</sup>Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.**

**Pursuing “edifying things” is the positive side**

***20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.***



**I am not walking according to love if I use my liberty in such a way as to damage him**

**WHY?** *Christ has died for him! Am I not prepared to curtail my liberty a little bit for my brother's good? It is really a question of being in accord with Christ!*

<sup>20</sup> ***Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.***

## **7. Do not destroy the work of God**

The “*work of God*” here refers to the operations of the Spirit of God within the soul—

As to such matters as eating and drinking, we have full liberty, but we must not forget to walk in love.

If I use my liberty without regard to how others are affected by it, I am not walking in love.

The things of peace are to be pursued, and the things of edification. We are to be careful of the work of God in others:

My liberty may tend to destroy the work of God in him. "All things indeed are pure", but a man's conscience may make something evil to him, and I am to think of this.

- **I Cor. 9:19**

*“Though I was free from all men, I brought myself under bondage to all, that I might gain the more . . .*

- *10:24, Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor’s good*



Let us  
follow  
Paul:

- *(10:33) even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved.*