



ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION

A Christian Lifestyle

Romans 14:13-15:4



A FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.




A NECESSARY CONTEXT

¹⁴ As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

¹⁵ If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ Let us therefore make every



effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.



Stronger
Participating
Brother

Stronger
Abstaining
Brother

Weaker
Brother

Professional
Weaker
Brother

MARK 7

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?”

6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:




“ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

7 They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.’

8 You have let go of the commands of God and are
holding on to the traditions of men.”

DUPLICITY OR CONSIDERATION

²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.



15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.



POINTS TO PONDER

- The ultimate freedom of a genuine believer is not the freedom that leads to self-indulgence BUT the freedom to do that which glorifies Jesus.
- Each of us must seek out and cultivate a lifestyle that is constantly submitted to the evaluation of the Holy Spirit then we will be like Christ and not merely conforming to the influences of others.



TO GO

- Do you live an examined life?
- What primary factors influence your perspectives on acceptable behavior?
- Do you accept your brothers and sisters in the same way that Jesus has accepted you?