**Every Knee Shall Bow**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 14:9-17**

**Wednesday Evening**

**March 26, 2025**

**Romans 14:9-17**

9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 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.

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

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

Saints, Christ died to free us and to deliver us from judgment. He alone is our judge. For any believer to claim to have the authority to tell others how they should think or act in matters of opinion is to usurp the position that Christ alone holds.

**Philippians 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

Saints, believers are not to condemn one another, because all of us will be judged by Christ.

Each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God to give an account of our actions.

**1 Corinthians 4:5**

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

Saints, this is not where God judges the eternal destiny of all people, but where believers’ lives will be judged for what they have done (see also Matthew.

**1 Corinthians 4:5**

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

**Matthew 12:36-37**

36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

**1 Peter 4:5-6**

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

**11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."**

Saints, quoting from:

**Isaiah 45:23**

I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

Paul explains that a time of judgment will come. Isaiah referred to the day when every knee will bow before God.

It was God’s original intention to bring all the people to himself through Abraham, but the Jews had discarded God’s message to the Gentiles.

We must never participate in rejecting those whom God has accepted.

We must be convinced that we will be held responsible for our own lives before God. Each person will give an account for himself or herself.

**1 Corinthians 15:24-28**

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

We are to confront one another in love, concern, and truth, but not in judgment.

**12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**

Saints, each believer will have to give a personal account to God.

**Hebrews 4:13**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

**Ecclesiastes 12:14**

For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Each of us will have enough to explain without adding condemning or mocking attitudes toward other believers. We need each other, so we simply cannot afford to be undercutting each other.

**1 John 2:28-29**

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

If anything, we ought to be busy helping ourselves and our fellow believers so that we can give a good account of ourselves to God.

In the front lines of a battle, all the soldiers on your side look good.

**13 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.**

Saints, believers are to not judge one another regarding their convictions on matters of opinion. Here Paul directs his words to the “strong” believers, explaining that they need to be sensitive about how their convictions affect other believers.

Each believer, though free to have his or her own convictions, must also be careful that those convictions don’t put an obstacle in another Christian’s path.

**James 4:11-12**

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

And if they do, then those freedoms must be reevaluated.

Both “strong” and “weak” Christians can cause their brothers and sisters to stumble.

A stumbling block or obstacle refers to something that might cause someone to trip or fall into sin.

**Galatians 5:13-15**

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

The strong but insensitive Christian may flaunt his or her freedom, be a harmful example, and thus offend others’ consciences.

The scrupulous but weak Christian may try to fence others in with petty rules and regulations, thus causing dissension.

Paul wants his readers to be both strong in the faith and sensitive to others’ needs.

Because we are all strong in certain areas and weak in others, we constantly need to monitor the effects of our behavior on others.

**1 Corinthians 8:9**

“But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak”

**14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.**

Saints, referring back to the issue of food (14:2-3, 6), Paul states his own conviction that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat.

But not all believers felt the same way.

At the Jerusalem council (Acts 15), for example, the Jewish church in Jerusalem asked the Gentile church in Antioch not to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols.

Paul accepted this request, not because he felt that eating such meat was wrong in itself, but because this practice would deeply offend many Jewish believers.

Paul did not think the issue was worth dividing the church over; his desire was to promote unity.

So, he concludes, if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong.

**Mark 7:14-23**

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: 15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. 18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,

19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Paul’s practice was to honor, as far as possible, the convictions of others.

Believers are called to accept one another without judging our varied opinions.

However, when the situation has to be faced, how should we deal with those who disagree with us?

Paul’s response is that all believers should act in love so as to maintain peace in the church.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**