**Whatever is not from Faith is Sin**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 14:15-23**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 2, 2025**

**Romans 14:15-23**

15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.

21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. 22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

**15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.**

Saints, if one believer has no scruples about where meat comes from or how it is prepared,

but flaunts his or her belief in order to cause one who is concerned to be distressed, then the stronger individual is not acting in love.

**1 Corinthians 8:11-12**

11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

The conduct of stronger believers is not to be decided by what they feel is their better insight into the Scriptures, or what they feel would “strengthen” those weaker ones.

**1 Corinthians 10:24-26**

24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being. 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; 26 for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."

Rather, it is to be decided by love and sensitivity. The stronger believer must not let what he or she wants to do, when it is a minor matter such as whether to eat meat or not, become a stumbling block that could ruin someone for whom Christ died.

If Christ gave his life for that person, surely no believer has the option to ruin him or her because of food!

**16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;**

Saints, mature Christians shouldn’t flaunt their freedom; otherwise, they might be condemned for doing something that is all right simply because their doing it destroyed another believer.

**1 Peter 2:12**

having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Mature believers should be sensitive to younger converts whose faith can be destroyed by such freedom.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

For example, a young Christian addicted to gambling may be damaged by our freedom to play cards.

Some activities may be all right in and of themselves, but not around weaker new converts.

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

Saints, after all, says Paul, if we let those little scruples become major points of contention, we have forgotten what the Kingdom of God is all about.

It has nothing to do with what we eat or drink. Instead, it is living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 6:31-34**

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Arguing over scruples does not contribute to that.

Believers need to concern themselves with doing what is right in the essentials, maintaining harmony, and sharing God’s joy, not in forcing their scruples and lifestyles on others.

**18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.**

Saints, those who serve Christ by doing right before God, maintaining peace among the believers, and sharing joy with others are the ones who will accomplish the acceptable service to Christ—they will please God and people.

**Colossians 3:23-24**

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

**1 Corinthians 10:31-32**

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

**19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**

Saints, Christ died to free us and to deliver us from judgment.

**Hebrews 12:12-17**

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. 14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

15 looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

God 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.

**20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.**

Saints, food and our feelings about it, or any scruples that are not specifically condemned in Scripture, are not worth arguing about, flaunting, or judging—these should never be allowed to tear down other believers or tear apart the church.

**1 Corinthians 10:22-23**

22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? 23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

It is wrong for one believer to insist on his or her freedom when it causes others to stumble

**21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.**

Saints, if it causes someone else to fall, then put it aside for the other’s sake (see also 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-32).

Therefore, mature believers must not eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another Christian to stumble.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Truly strong believers can restrict their freedoms for the sake of others.

**22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.**

Saints, in those areas of disagreement, Paul counsels the believers to keep their beliefs between themselves and God.

The brother or sister who believes in certain freedoms should not be trying to influence others with scruples to “loosen up.”

**1 John 3:21-22**

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Those bothered by some actions should not be judging or condemning those with freedom, nor should they be trying to force their scruples on the entire church.

**James 1:5-6**

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Instead all believers should seek a clear conscience before God. The believers who do so are blessed and do not condemn themselves by doing something they know is all right.

This person has a good, but not insensitive, conscience.

**23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

Saints, if a believer does something that he or she has doubts about whether it is right or wrong, that action will bring condemnation.

**James 4:17**

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

Saints, believers ought to try to steer clear of actions forbidden by Scripture, of course, but sometimes Scripture is silent.

Then we should follow our conscience. To go against a conviction will leave a person with a guilty or uneasy conscience.

When God shows us that something is wrong for us, we should avoid it.

**Matthew 14:28-33**

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

But we should not look down on other Christians who exercise their freedom in those areas.

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.”**