

“Christian Liberty and Its Limits”

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Sermon text: Romans 14:13-23

1. Defend Your Liberty (vs. 14a, 16-18)

[14] I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself.

[16] So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. [17] For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [18] Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Mark 7:14–19

Acts 10:9–16

Galatians 5:1–6

2. Calculate the Risks (vs. 14b-15, 20-23)

[14b] but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. [15] For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

[20] Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. [21] It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. [22] The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. [23] But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

Acts 16:1–5

Acts 21:17–26

3. Practice Christ-like Courtesy (vs. 14:13, 19-21, and 15:1-3)

[13] Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

[19] So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

[1] We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

[2] Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. **[3] For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”** (ESV)

Psalms 69:6–9