

Love and Liberty

1 Cor 10:23-33 / Rom 14-15

1. Just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we should.

- a. While all things may be "lawful," not everything is profitable.
- b. What is my focus? My own or another's perceived welfare?
 - In caring for our brothers and sisters what is the motive?
 - In caring for the unsaved, what is the motive? Can a believer be a bad testimony to the unbelieving?

2. We should seek the good of others as a priority.

- a. The conscience of others (including that of unbelievers) should be respected.
- b. We should seek to do all for God's glory.
- c. We should avoid causing others to stumble.
- d. We should seek the good of others.

3. Accept one another w/o judging or despising one another regarding disputable matters ("doubtful disputations" KJV). (Rom 14). These are things not mentioned directly in scripture but which are nonetheless potentially divisive in the church. Examples are tobacco use, genres of music, alcohol consumption etc. There can be many potential things that fall into this category. So:

- a. Respect one another's conscience - we will all answer to God.
- b. Jesus died and rose to bring us to God. He is our Judge and Intercessor - why judge your brother?
- c. We are not to insist on exercising liberty to the detriment of others.
- d. Always remember that our faith is not a matter of eternal regulations but of righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit.
- e. We should make every effort to get along.
- f. Do not destroy God's work for the sake of food and drink.
- g. Finally, keep your opinions to yourself. I.e., don't argue over such things. I don't have to be "right," I have to be loving. What you do in your own home or out in the community is Between yourself and God. But, don't ram your "liberty" down the throat of others (E.g., Don't bring your beer to the church potluck). Seek peace and mutual growth.
 - Do not allow what you believe to be good to be spoken of as evil.
 - Ultimately, seek His honor.