

Sermon Title: The Guidelines for the Principle of Christian Liberty, Part 2

Sermon Text: Romans 14:4-9

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to practice the guidelines of Christian Liberty, in order to achieve the goal of mutual acceptance.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 more guidelines for the strong and the weak to realize in mutual acceptance.

IV. The 4th guideline is to realize the principle of ultimate accountability over doubtful things. V.4

V. The 5th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful days. V.5-6a

VI. The 6th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful foods. V.6b

VII. The 7th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful purpose of life. V.7-9

IV. The 4th guideline is to realize the principle of ultimate accountability over doubtful things. V.4

A. God is the only judge of His servants in such matters. V.4a

1. Remove the log
2. Use the same judgment
3. Caught, but next time it's you

B. God sovereignly sustains or overrules His servant in such matters. V.4b

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **4** For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. **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.

C. God sovereignly makes it possible to fulfill His will. V.4c (**Romans 8:33-34, 38-39**)

John 10:27-28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

James 4:11-12 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?

Realize your new life in Christ is a trust given to you. In this trust is time, talents, temple, treasure, and a testimony that we must all give an account for. (Parable of the talents Luke 19:11-27)

V. The 5th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful days. V.5-6a

In this context, mind refers to the heart and conscience of the individual (weak and strong). This is the individual's deepest conscience, convictions, and motives. Before God, each one stands and will stand in judgment, therefore it is not a matter of observance or non-observance but of intent.

"In matters that are not specifically commanded or forbidden by Scripture, it is always wrong to go against your conscience, because conscience represents what we actually believe to be right. And although an act or a practice in and of itself may not be sinful, it is treated as sinful for those who are convinced in their own minds that it is wrong and produces guilt." [The John MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Romans 9-16, p.282.] (**Romans 2:1; 1 Corinthians 10:28-33; Romans 14:22**) **1 Timothy 4:2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **Acts 24:16** "This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Without spiritual illumination the conscience can become a false guide.

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Acts 26:9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Paul's twofold instruction therefore is 1) Do not compromise your own conscience in order to conform to the conscience of someone else. 2) Do not attempt to lead or influence another believer to compromise their conscience to conform to yours.

"Paul's call for the "renewal of your mind" (**Romans 12:2**) reminds us, that the judgment of the conscience tells whether behavior is truly right in God's eyes only so far as they are based on the norms corresponding to God's will. For Paul, the "integrity" of a person is the harmonious relationship between a person's beliefs and how they live and make decisions. The conscience helps a person to achieve constant integrity and avoid division." [Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, p.154]

"Present-day religion far too often soothes the conscience instead of awakening it; and produces a sense of self-satisfaction and eternal safety rather than a sense of our unworthiness." – Martin Lloyd Jones

"Conscience is our moral intuition. It's that part of us that passes judgment on our own state. And it takes away our confidence when it is sour or when it is bad. It takes away our security when it is soiled. You have two very firm weapons for battle – faith and a good conscience. Without those weapons we crumble like a dry cookie that's been sitting on the shelf for three or four days. There's no tenacity. There's no resilience. We finally fall." – Author unknown

"In order for one's conscience to be a good guide, one the Spirit can direct, it needs to be healthy, sensitive, and capable of getting God's message and truth. – Charles R. Swindoll, *Flying Closer to the Flame*

"Conscience is not given to a man to instruct him in the right, but to prompt him to choose the right instead of the wrong when he has been instructed as to what is right. It tells a man what he ought to do right, but it does not tell him what is right. And if a man has made up his mind that a certain wrong course is the right one, the more he follows his conscience the more helpless he is as a wrongdoer." – H.C. Trumbull, quoted in Ray Stedman, *The Birth of the Body*

The above quotes taken from: Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1998, pp. 116-118.

VI. The 6th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful foods. V.6b

The motivation for the weak and the strong is their dedication to the sovereignty and glory of God. (**1 Corinthians 10:31**) The food, days and drink is nothing to be despising or judging people over. But their motivation is essential, or why they're doing or not doing is essential. Therefore, they give thanks to the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 8:9-12; 13; Acts 23:1**)

Colossians 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Galatians 4:9-10 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? **10** You observe days and months and seasons and years.

VII. The 7th guideline is to realize the principle for doubtful purpose of life. V.7-9

- A. Realize who you live and die for. V.7-8a
- B. Realize who owns you in life and death. V.8b-9

Christ is both the strong and weak Christians "Lord" "Master" mutually and He is mutually sovereign as Judge. Therefore, everything we do, even in our dying, should be to please and to glorify our Sovereign Lord and Savior.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Jesus died, was buried, and rose not only to save us, but to own us, not only to free us from the penalty, power, and presence of sin, Satan, and self, but to enslave us to Himself.

(Romans 6:17-18, 22; 1 Corinthians 15:56-58)

Philippians 2:11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 19:16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1 Timothy 6:15 which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,