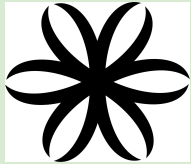
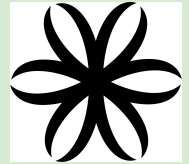


ROMANS 14

The Weak and The Strong - The Danger of Criticism



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself



LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAYS

Deut.18:15,18-19 *Moses said* “ADONAI will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him.” *God said* “**I will raise up for them a prophet like you (Moses) from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell them everything I order Him. Whoever doesn’t listen to My words, which He will speak in My name, will have to account for himself to Me.**” (CJB)

Peter in Acts:3:17-23, Philip in John 1:45, Jesus in John 6:26-33, Our Father in Matt:17:5

*** DO WHAT JESUS HAS INSTRUCTED ABOVE ALL! ***

(God’s Love & Grace vs. Man’s Fear & Law)

ACCEPT WEAK / IMMATURE BELIEVERS

The standard of Belief is **TRUST**. Some have little, some have a lot, but most are in the middle. The level of one's trust can be equated to the level of one's weakness or immaturity.

V.1 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. (NLT)

People on the weaker side of the trust scale can be easily led astray or turned off. They can be driven away even if what they are being told is correct - so don't get in arguments with them.

God's Word Instructs His Children to Mature

Heb.5:13-14, Eph.4:11-15, 1Pet.2:1-3, 1Cor.14:20, 2 Pet.3:15-18

We are to be Disciple Makers - But on the flip side do not be led astray by Disciple Takers!

STAY IN YOUR LANE

Don't pass judgement on other believers for how they choose to eat to honor God because it violates the commandment from Jesus to love your neighbour as yourself.

V.4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servant? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the LORD's help they will stand and receive His approval.

God is the One and Only true Master and that lane is reserved for Him and Him alone. We need to check ourselves and stay in our own lane when we think other people should think, eat, etc. How we think, eat, etc.

James 4:11-12, Luke 6:36-37, Matthew 7:1-5

HONOR THE LORD IN ALL YOU DO

V. 5-6 One person esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully persuaded in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the LORD; and he who does not observe the day, to the LORD he does not observe it. NKJ

A person honors the LORD with what they do unto the LORD - believers, pray and give thanks to God everyday regardless of what they choose to eat or do because they do it unto the LORD for God's glory. The body of Christ needs to be united in Holy Spirit because we are bound together, regardless of our trust/maturity in God or how/when we choose to eat, shop, rest, or worship.

* God is interested in our hearts posture towards Him above all. *

ALL WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES TO GOD

“ I AM the LORD; there is no other God.”

“All the world from east to west will know there is no other God.”

“As I Live, say’s the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

“Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands?”

Isaiah 45:5-12 & 16-25

BUILD EACH OTHER UP IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

If we serve the LORD with an attitude of goodness, peace, and joy in Holy Spirit than we are pleasing Him. So aim to live in harmony in the body of Christ and build each other up.

V.23 If you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

Some things that were not considered to be food by the Jews: Pigs, camels, rabbits (non-split hooves). Shrimp, lobster, eels (bottom feeders). Vultures, owls (birds of prey) and blood.

Lev.11, Deut.14:21, Gen.9:4, Exod.34:26

DO NOT CAUSE ANOTHER BELIEVER TO STUMBLE

V.21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

First and foremost, everyone needs to have a clear conscious before God.

Look to the Word of God for the many examples of the body of Christ sacrificing for one another and lifting each other up instead of causing one another to fall.

Ask Holy Spirit to help you and make you aware of when you may be causing another believer to stumble and ask for strategies to instead build them up.

IN CONCLUSION

Whether you're a Jew or Gentile, faithfully obedient or a prodigal, a strong believer (have a lot of trust in God) or a weak believer (have little trust in God) we are all one in Christ Jesus and are called to be faithful to His plans and purposes.

We all need to heed the Word of God, and keep our eyes on Jesus and off ourselves and our selfish ambitions, thoughts, and opinions.

Let's choose to obey Jesus and have HIS greatest commandments as our reference point:

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself”

Matt. 22:37-40