

SAINTS SHOULD YIELD

Romans 14

As a part of our sanctification, saints must yield their Christian liberties when they seek to regulate or threaten to hinder others.

I. YIELD YOUR FIGHTS (1-13a)

- No Judging!

A. ACCEPT THE WEAK (1-4)

1. The Condition of the Weak
 - a. The weak are immature in their faith
 - b. They are oversensitive about sin, especially in matters that are amoral or indefinite
2. The Conduct of the Strong
 - a. Be Cordial (1-2) > Allowing differences without debate
 - b. Be Considerate (3) > Not condemning another's character or conduct (3)
 - c. Be Careful (4) > He answers to his Master, not you!

B. QUESTION YOUR PERSONAL CONVICTIONS (5-9)

1. Are you fully convinced about your position? (5)
2. Is what you are doing an act of worship? (6-9)

C. REMEMBER WHO'S IN CHARGE (10-13a)

1. You will answer for your attitude (10)
2. Others will give an account for themselves (11-12)
3. Take off your judge's robe! (13a)

D. REFLECT ON WHAT TO DO (Application)

1. Our Problems
 - a. Uncertainty: How do we know what constitutes "opinions" and distinguish that from what's worth fighting for?
 - b. Frustration: We want to see people freed from their weakness and it's scruples
 - c. Impatience: It's hard for us to wait upon and trust God to handle things
2. Some Prescriptions
 - a. Love don't devour - See Gal. 5:14-16
 - b. Teach don't taunt - See Acts 18:24-26

Over please >

II. YIELD YOUR RIGHTS (13b-23)

- No Hindering!

A. THE COMMITMENT (13b-15)

- Note that Paul includes himself. "Let us ..."

1. Resolve: I will be considerate of others
2. Reasons:
 - a. Because he is my brother (13b).
 - b. Because what he thinks is primary (14)
 - c. Because my conduct can be unloving (15)

B. THE ADVICE (16-18)

1. Consider the reaction to your actions (16)
2. Broaden your perspective (17)
 - Being filled with the Spirit is far more important than what fills your stomach!
3. Understand service (18)

C. THE AMBITION (19-21)

1. Pursue (19)
 - a. The peace process
 - b. The strengthening of others
2. Prohibit (20-21)
 - a. Destruction (20) > Tearing down others for trivial food is strictly forbidden
 - b. Obstacles (21)

D. THE SUMMARY (22-23)

1. For the Believing One (22)
 - a. Practice your convictions before God
 - b. Enjoy the things you approve
2. For the doubting one (23)
 - a. He is condemned if he eats
 - b. Guard your conscience!

CONCLUSION:

When it comes to the use of our Christian liberties, we need to slow down, look around and be willing and able to stop if the situation calls for it.