



Worship Service  
November 17, 2019  
Pastor Bruce Adrian

## Code of Conduct

Lesson Two • Romans 14:13-23

### Love Is Better Than Liberty

#### How do you handle Christian liberty? You Handle It with Care!

Our liberty in Christ must be LIMITED by our love for one another.

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13*

#### Three Warnings Against Abusing Your Christian Liberty

### 1. Don't Let Your Liberty Destroy Your BROTHER!

#### Exercising Christian Liberty

Determine not to be a STUMBLING BLOCK in the life of another Christian.

*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. Romans 14:13*

#### What Is Christian Liberty?

Christians liberty is the FREEDOM in Christ to make lifestyle choices out of love for Christ and other Christians.

*I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 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. Romans 14:14-15*

### 2. Don't Let Your Liberty Destroy Your TESTIMONY!

#### Danger to Avoid

In your zeal to be free from LEGALISM, don't fall into LIBERTINISM.

*So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. Romans 14:16*

#### What's Most Important

The eternal realities of the KINGDOM OF GOD are more important than one's freedom in disputable matters.

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. Romans 14:17-18*

### 3. Don't Let Your Liberty Destroy Your CHURCH!

#### Three Exhortations

- PURSUE what makes for peace and building up one another. (vs. 19)
- PROTECT the "work of God" or the church community. (vs. 20-21)
- PRESERVE your own conscience before the Lord. (vs. 22-23)

#### Liberty Says, But Love Asks

- ❖ Liberty says: "I'm convinced it's OKAY!" But love asks: "Will it TRIP UP a weaker believer?"

*But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? . . . Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. 1Corinthians 8:9-10, 13*

- ❖ Liberty says: "There's nothing WRONG with it!" But love asks: "Will it TEAR DOWN other believers?"

*"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 1Corinthians 10:23*

#### The Bottom Line

Love is always BETTER than liberty for the sake of keeping unity in the Gospel.