

## THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

### Part 2: No Stumbling Blocks

Romans 14:13-15:6

#### Introduction:

- Circle those that the Bible views as sin for everyone:

Smoking      Drinking alcohol      Worry

Sex outside of marriage      Loving money

- Last week we learned that there are some things that are sin for one person that are not a sin for another because of the Christian c\_\_\_\_\_ ; we learned:

1. That we must r\_\_\_\_\_ those issues that relate to the Christian conscience.
2. Then we need to r\_\_\_\_\_ each other's consciences.
3. Finally we must r\_\_\_\_\_ that a person's conscience is accountable to God alone.

- This message the Scripture (Rom 14:3) singles out one action that we should never do because of the differences in conscience, never be a s\_\_\_\_\_ block to others

#### The Principle of Love - the b\_\_\_\_\_ (14:14-16)

- Paul was formerly a religious Jew, a P\_\_\_\_\_.

When he came to Christ:

1. He disappeared from the public view for \_\_\_\_\_ years (Gal 1:17,18), to be personally tutored by the risen Lord.
2. He came to an understanding of how the Old Covenant was fulfilled in the N\_\_\_\_\_ covenant
  - a. The purpose of the Old Covenant was to create a h\_\_\_\_\_ people for God (Ex 19:5,6) – instead it showed how sinful people were.
  - b. God made the New Covenant in the b\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Jer 31:31-34; Lk 22:20) to bring people into relationship with Him.
    - 1) We are no longer related to Him through Laws but through J\_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) That relationship makes us holy, which means “set a \_\_\_\_\_” from the world.
  - c. Therefore, the purpose of the Old Covenant of creating a holy people was fulfilled in the New Covenant.

- The startling truth

1. Nothing is u\_\_\_\_\_ in itself
2. Something is unclean to the person who t\_\_\_\_\_ it is unclean.

- Two actions that relate to “a stumbling block”

1. Negative – do not h\_\_\_\_\_ your fellow Christian or destroy them by your actions.
2. Positive – walk in l\_\_\_\_\_ (agape – to seek the good of another without any thought for yourself)

- Case study – a believer is trying to quit smoking because they believe it violates their relationship to God. You however, do not believe you are addicted but can smoke and still glorify God. How can you make that you are not a stumbling block?

### **The Principle of Edification - the f\_\_\_\_\_ (14:17-15:4)**

- All Christians share in the kingdom of G\_\_\_\_\_
  1. We were transferred from the kingdom of d\_\_\_\_\_ (where sin ruled) to the kingdom of His Son (where Jesus rules)
  2. We must s\_\_\_\_\_ Christ in the ways of the kingdom, which brings approval from both God and men (v. 18)
- The way of the kingdom is edification by pursuing (v. 17)
  1. R\_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Spirit
    - a. Righteousness must not come through the keeping of r\_\_\_\_\_ - that bases it on what we do, which is a filthy righteousness.
    - b. Righteousness must come in Christ – based on what Christ has done
    - c. Therefore I must encourage a “weak” believer:
      - 1) Not by setting up r\_\_\_\_\_ for them
      - 2) But by encouraging them to h\_\_\_\_\_ their relationship to Christ.
  2. P\_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Spirit
    - a. This is NOT giving in to keep the peace, which may lead to c\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. - a “weak” brother hounds me for a cigarette and I give it to keep the peace).
    - b. This is seeking harmony between believers by honoring their relationship to Christ.
    - c. Case study – same situation as before, but your friend always seems to bother you for a cigarette. What actions can you take to keep peace between you in the Holy Spirit?
  3. J\_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Spirit
    - a. This is not forbidding us to e\_\_\_\_\_ food, drink, things, etc.
    - b. This is about where our joy is anchored (Phil 4:4)
      - 1) Our joy must not be anchored in the temporary, for then our joy comes and goes.
      - 2) Our joy must be anchored in the un\_\_\_\_\_ - God, never changes, so our joy is always present.
    - c. Our joy must not be in expressing our f\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (e.g. having a beer, taking a puff, etc.) but in our relationship to the Lord.
      - 1) What if God were to require you to give up your freedoms permanently so that you won't be a stumbling block, could you do it? (where is your joy?)
      - 2) Look at the freedoms Christ gave up to honor His relationship to His Father on behalf of us (15:1-3)
  4. The focus we must have for each other is to e\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2), which means to build each other up in a way that is glorifying to God.

### **Conclusion – our prayer as a church family (15:5,6)**

*Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant US to be of the SAME mind with one another*

*ACCORDING to Christ Jesus;*

*that with ONE accord*

*WE may with ONE voice*

*GLORIFY the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*