



Heritage Alliance Church  
March 24, 2024  
Pastor Shawn  
Part 16: Romans 14  
Rights or Responsibility?

*“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall... For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord... let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister... Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.”*  
Romans 14:1-23

What does it mean to be stronger or weaker in faith?

Not everyone will agree what is right when it comes to living before God with a clear conscience. Unity and loving one another doesn’t require agreeing with each other. Love and unity require respecting each other despite disagreement.

Love in disagreement by,

- Don’t despise each other...
- Focus on what leads to peace & support
- Don’t judge another’s conscience decision
- Be fully convinced your decision is right
- Don’t argue about amoral issues

*“You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.*

*For why should my freedom be limited by what someone else thinks?*

*If I can thank God for the food and enjoy it, why should I be condemned for eating it?*

*I don’t just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be*

*saved.”*

1 Corinthians 10:23, 29, 33

Love people more than your rights / freedom – Philippians 2:1-11

“Don’t cause others to stumble”

- Cause them to violate their conscience
- Cause them to return to sinful practices
- Cause people to reject the gospel

My Rights / Freedom – What is permissible?

My Conscience – What is right for me before God?

My Behavior – What I should or shouldn’t for the love of others.

**Questions:** What amoral behaviors stand out in church community - where some followers of Jesus participate in and others do not? Do they cause division? Judgement? How do you decide how to participate or not in these amoral behaviors? Do you behave differently around other believers out of love or fear of judgement?