

LIVE & LET LIVE

Romans 14:1 – 15:1; 1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1

[Regarding disputable matters, serious Christians will ask another question:] “What beliefs and conduct nudge me back toward the cross, and forward to loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength, and my neighbors as myself? What will bring glory to God?”

D.A. Carson

Why this reminder?

The weight of scripture demands it (Luke 4:18-19; Rom 6:22; 1 Cor 7:22-23; Rom 8:1-2; Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 3:17-18; 1 Cor 8:18-23)

Because disputable matters are so tricky

- Just because something is disputed doesn't mean it's disputable.
- Just because something is not disputed doesn't mean it's not disputable.
- In disputable matters we assume our opinions are right and therefore superior, and contrary opinions are wrong and therefore inferior.

What's it all about?

In disputable matters we get confused about what we should do, who we want to please, and why people differ.

The principle:

- Don't judge (if they were really good Christians they would behave as I behave)
- Don't mock those who don't (If they were as wise as I am, they would see is as I see it)
- Realize we all answer to God

The challenge

- Make up your mind - Don't do it
- Foster peace and support one another
- Mind your own business - quit stirring the pot

Special rules apply with unbelievers (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Verses to Consider: Week of September 2, 2018

Luke 4:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Romans 6:22 (NIV)

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

1 Corinthians 7:22–23 (NIV)

²² For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord’s freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ’s slave. ²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.

Romans 8:1–2 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NIV)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into **his** image.

1 John 3:19–22 (NLT)

¹⁹ Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. ²⁰ Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²² And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (NLT)

¹⁹ Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. ²⁰ When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. ²¹ When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. ²² When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. ²³ I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.