

Study in Romans

Application > Disposition of the Christian > The Principle of Faith in Matters of Conscience Romans 14:1-12

How do we deal with each other in the face of differences of opinion? Some Christians believe in celebrating Christmas; others don't. Some believe that we should meet for worship only on Saturdays; others practice Sundays as the day for worship. Some Christians see a problem with shorts (especially on women), other don't. Some Christians believe drinking any alcohol is a sin; others see drinking in moderation to not only be acceptable, but even healthy. Some Christians don't believe in musical instruments in a worship service; some repudiate only certain "worldly" instruments; others see all instruments as acceptable. Some Christians do not believe in serving in the military as soldier tasked with killing people; others believe strongly in the noble duty of the soldier in a "just war." The list could go on and on.

In our journey through Romans, we now come to the topic that Paul talks the most about in the application portion than on any other single topic: How to maintain unity in the Body of Christ in midst of the diversity of opinions. It is clear from this passage that this is a very important application of the love that God has demonstrated to us on the cross and that we have been exhorted already to have for everyone, including our enemies. How much more then should we seek to love and live in harmony with our bothers and sisters in Christ? We'll see in this study that nothing glorifies God more in the eyes of the watching world than the unity of such a diverse group of people as the church. We'll also see how love and faith work together in building and maintaining unity. As Jesus says, "I'm giving you a new commandment: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, that you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

1. Accept the one weak in faith (v. 1)
2. Example 1: Eating (vv. 2; cf. 1 Cor. 8:4-13 & 10:23-33)
3. Both the weak and the strong in faith my accept each other (v. 3)
4. Who are you to judge? (v. 4)
5. Example 2: Holy days (vv. 5-6)
6. Jesus is Lord of all (vv. 7-9)
7. Each of us will give an account of himself or herself to God (vv. 10-12; cf. 2 Cor. 5:6-10)

foi-ble

1. The part of a sword or foil blade between the middle and point.

2. A minor fault or shortcoming in someone's character or behavior.

Origin

from obsolete French word "foible" meaning "weak"; from Old French "feble" or "feeble".

Synonyms

demerit, dereliction, failing, fault, frailty, shortcoming, sin, vice, want, weakness