

Study in Romans

Application > Disposition of the Christian >
Pleasing God Through the Law of Love
Romans 14:13-23

“Please be patient with me; God is not through with me yet!”

In this second half of chapter 14, Paul turns the corner from the admonition to stop the negative of judging one another’s thoughts and motives, and exhorts us to the positive of turning that judgement toward ourselves for the purpose of building each other up. Although faith continues to be the strong rail supporting all this, love also becomes the second rail on which his train of thought is moving. In light of all that God is doing to reveal His unconditional love to us His former enemies, it is a rather small thing to get our petty squabbles about unimportant things out of His way as He works in our lives and hearts in the process of salvation.

It’s amazing to think that we can actually get in the way of what God’s doing in someone’s life, but that’s exactly what he says in vv. 15 and 20! God forbid that our personal tastes should tear down His work in somebody! Sadly, the church’s history is replete with many examples. We expect to be attacked by the unsaved and by our enemy the Devil, but not our own brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, let us resolve to set aside our freedoms—if necessary—for the sake of others who are not as far along in their faith journey.

Hot Buttons for Discussion

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divorce• Versions of the Bible• Music styles | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking alcohol• Dress codes• The arts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movies, TV, internet• Money/finances• Politics |
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1. Don’t let your freedoms in Christ hurt your brother or sister (vv. 13-15)
2. The Kingdom of God is a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (vv. 16-18)
3. Pursue the things that make for peace and edification (vv. 19-21)
4. Anything not of faith is sin! (vv. 22-23)