

Romans 13:13-14

13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Application #1: Never believe that you have Christian freedom to act or live in any way that His Word says is sinful. God does not want us to judge each other in non-essential matters, but He is very clear that we are never to approve of sin.

Romans 14:1

14 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

Application #2: Welcome each other, even if your brother or sister in Christ is weak in their faith. But when there are matters which the Word of God is not clear on, do not argue with or judge your fellow Christian for having a different opinion than you on a non-essential issue.

Romans 14:2

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

Application #3: What we consume as Christians can often be a matter on which there is disagreement, but freedom in the Christian life. Eating, drinking, television, movies, music, sports, and other issues of consumption will differ from one believer to another. However, the Word of God can still speak to us in these areas, and when His Word is clear our choices are essential matters of obedience.

Romans 14:3

³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

Application #4: If one believer chooses to partake of something while another believer chooses to avoid it, we are not to judge each other on matters where God has allowed freedom.

Romans 14:4

⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Application #5: As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not masters of one another. While we are to hold each other accountable on everything that is clear from the Word of God, the final judgment on matters of Christian freedom belongs to God and not to us.

Romans 14:5

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Application #6: How we organize our schedules, the priorities we have in the use of our time, are often a matter of Christian freedom. Some believers will spend their time differently than others. Every minute of every day belongs to God, but He gives us freedom to choose how we will honor Him with our time. God says that no matter how we use our time, we should have strong faith that we are honoring Him, being fully convinced that what we are doing is right.

Romans 14:6

⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

Application #7: No matter what the Christian does, they must do it in honor of the Lord. Whatever we choose to eat or drink, watch or not watch, listen to or not listen to, however we choose to use our time, we must do it in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God for what He has provided. In order for us to have these freedoms in our choices, our choices must be free from personal sin, otherwise it does not honor God.

Romans 14:7-9

*⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.
⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

Application #8: Everything we do is before the all knowing and all seeing eye of God. Whether we choose to risk our lives for the cause of Christ, willingly dying for Him, or whether we choose to live a long and fruitful life of service to Him, living and dying both are done for His sake. Jesus Christ both lived for the sake of His Father and died for the sake of His Father.

Romans 14:10

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

Application #9: On matters where God has given us freedom to choose how we shall live our lives, we are not the judge of our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we pass judgement on our brothers and sisters in Christ where they have the freedom to choose differently than us, we are taking the place of God. All of us will stand before Him and give answer for every choice we have made.

Romans 14:11

11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Application #10: We must be ready to confess to God everything we have done, every choice we have made. Even as Christians, accepted by God because of what Christ as done, we will still give an account of ourselves to God.

Conclusion: Now we just do what we want, right, and don't judge each other, right? Well, Paul's not done. We will return to this matter next week and learn that out of love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can't just do what we want. If something we do causes our brother or sister to sin, when we do it, it causes both of us to sin. Because, whatever is not done in faith is sin, for all of us.