

## The Just Shall Live by Faith "The Behavior Between Believers" part one Romans 14:1-23

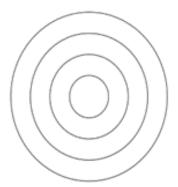
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Paul repeated two words in his prison epistles that described the kind of Church God could use to reflect the true nature of Jesus Christ into a community.

- Unity the unity of the faith Ephesians 4:3ff
- Purity the removal of sin Matthew 18ff
  - If the spiritual leaders do not deal with sin personally and privately, God will deal with it corporately.
- In Romans 1-II, the Apostle Paul defined how all Christians are just sinners saved by God's grace alone, through their faith alone, and in Christ alone.
- In Roman 12:1-2, Paul said the Christian's reasonable response to God's gift of grace is to:
  - Lay our lives before the Lord as "living sacrifices" to the One who saved us from an eternity in hell.
  - Not conform our lives to the systems of the world, but rather be transformed by the renewing of our minds

through the persistent and consistent study of the Scriptures.

• In Romans 12:3ff, Paul gave a series of commands and exhortations regarding the purity within the Church body.



Inner circle – our relationship with God.

Second circle – our relationship with other believers

Third circle – our relationship with unbelievers

Outer circle – our relationship with the enemies of the cross

- In Romans 13, Paul said the believer is to submit to the governing authorities and to live exemplary lives before unbelievers so as to prove the power of the gospel.
  - Romans 13:14: "Put on the Lord, Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts."
- Romans 14:1-23 Behavior Between Believers -
  - When it comes to "getting along" within the family, Paul's admonition is to: "pursue the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." vs 19
  - Receive the weaker brother vs 1-4
    - **Do not despise or condemn the weaker brother,** for he does not have to answer to any other man, but to God.
  - Stand firm in your own convictions vs 5-9
    - Do not violate your own conscience just to be riend the weaker brother.
    - We all are under the watchful eye of Jesus Christ.
    - We all belong to Jesus Christ, having been purchased by His death and His resurrection.
  - Leave the judgement up to God vs 10-12
    - Everyone will be judged by Christ.
    - Every knee will bow before Christ.
    - Everyone shall give an account of himself to God.
  - Judge our own behavior only vs 13-21
    - Walk in compassion, being careful not to offend those who are weak.
    - Walk in love, being careful to accept the weaker brother where he is.

- Pursue peace with the weaker brother, and build one another up.
- Do nothing to cause the weaker brother to stumble or to discount the work of God in his life.
- Watch your own life before God vs 22-23
  - Be true to your own convictions.
  - Be true to your own conscience.
- Make sure God approves your behavior.

## **Resolved:**

"I will act so, in every respect, as I think I shall wish I had done, if I should at last be damned."

Johnathan Edwards