

Outline for May 30, 2010 Romans 14:1-12

Introduction: Can we, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? Can we disagree on non-essentials in such a manner that the essentials are not subverted and maligned? Can we love each other to such an extent that we make room in our hearts for each other through the various stages of sanctification? Can we walk together warring against sin, encouraging the weak in faith, calling the strong to demonstrate the cross and all standing firm in the hope of the gospel?

I. The worship that is expressed in a life of obedience (12:1-2)

II. The worship that is exercised in a life of service (12:3-8)

III. The worship that is evidenced by genuine love (12:9-21)

A. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the household of faith (12:9-13)

B. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the world (12:14-13:14)

C. Imperatives for the believer in his or her obligation to love (13:8-15:13)

1. The obligation to love – “Owe no one anything...” (13:8)

a. What is this obligation?

b. What does Paul mean by this debt of “love”?

c. The big picture – Eleven imperatives that frame this principle for Paul

(1) Love displays the very character of Christ in holiness – “Let us walk properly...” (13:11-14)

(2) Love dresses for war – “and put on the armor of light...” (13:12b-14)

(3) Love delights in accepting and receiving those who are “weak in faith” (14:1-3, 15:7)

(4) Love does not despise a brother or sister because of their particular convictions concerning food or days
“Let not the one who eats despise...” (14:3; I Corinthians 8:6, 9)

(a) Definition of “despise”

(b) The discernment necessary to encourage and endure with those weak in faith (14:5-7)

1) Paul established three markers by which to test the validity of faith in Romans 14

- To be fully convinced – careful reasoning, thinking and working through the text to determine one’s position; a settled conviction; pursuing God through the text
- Honor – to esteem highly, to value, to glorify God both in thinking and in living
- Thanksgiving – the joy and gladness that flows from grace, a thankful dependence on God

2) Paul encouraged the weak in faith and the strong to be fully convinced

- Paul’s appeal was made on the basis of faith

Are they settled in their minds about their positions?

Are they indecisive and vacillating in their faith or are they carrying it out fully?

Are they wavering in their commitment looking to the opinions of others rather than trusting in the finished work of Christ?

- Fully convinced of what?

Both the weak in faith and the strong will be upheld by the Lord and enabled to stand – fully convinced of the power of God (14:4)

All of life and death is in the Lord’s hands – fully convinced of the sovereignty of Christ over life and death (14:7-8)

The massive doctrine and theological declaration of the cross and resurrection – fully convinced that Christ is Lord (14:9)

- What does this look like in sanctification?

The absolute certainty of the gospel (Luke 1:1)

The full assurance of faith (4:17-21)

To be convinced fully of the will of God (Colossians 4:12)

The complete discharge of ministry in suffering (II Timothy 4:5, 17)

NOTE: Being fully convinced of the absolute certainty of the gospel, the promise and power of God, the superior value of Christ over and above all things and the responsibility of suffering leads to the obedience of love. This freedom of love evidences itself in the firm, decisive, resolute, courageous and joyful display of faith.