

“In ALL Things Charity Pt. 2”  
Romans 14:14-23  
6/4/23  
Message 28

## Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “In ALL Things Charity Pt. 2”

- **Remember Context**

- **God’s GREAT LOVE (Romans 1-11 = Romans 12:1)**

**Romans 12:1 (NKJV)**

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

- **Review - Last Week – The Subject of UNITY – Majoring On Majors - Not Minors**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Unity Has Been a Problem forever**

- The Old Quote

- *To dwell above with saint’s we love - O, that will be glory.  
But to dwell below with those we know - Well, that’s a different story!*

- In the OT –

- It records the civil wars and family fights among the people of Israel!

- In the NT –

- Almost every local church mentioned in the New Testament had divisions to contend with
        - The Corinthians

- Were divided over human leaders
  - Some of the members were even suing each other (1 Cor. 1:10–13; 6:1–8).
- The Galatians
  - Were “biting and devouring” one another (Gal. 5:15)
- The Ephesians and Colossians
  - Had to be reminded of the importance of Christian unity (Eph. 4:1–3; Col. 2:1–2).
- The Philippians
  - Two women were at odds with each other and, as a result, were splitting the church (Phil. 4:1–3).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> The Problem Today – Romans 14**
  - **Christians Dividing over EATING MEAT**
    - Some found eating meat to be a wrong other thought it was okay
  - **Being CRITICAL and TEARING other believers apart on Non – Essentials – IS NOTHING NEW**
    - **Swindoll;**
      - “Believe as I believe—no more, no less;
      - That I am right (and no one else) confess.
      - Feel as I feel, think only as I think;
      - Eat what I eat, and drink but what I drink.
      - Look as I look, do always as I do;
      - And then—and only then—I’ll fellowship with you.”
    - **Swindoll, Growing Strong, p. 286**

- Last week we Talked About
  - Facebook / Social-Media
  - Buy from Amazon
  - Christmas Trees
  - Target
  - Movie Theaters
  - Cosmetics
  - Alcohol
  - Tobacco
    - Illustration – Spurgeon / Moody
  - Card Playing / Gambling
  - Dancing
  - Fashion
  - Trendiness is viewed by some Christians as worldliness
  - Bible translation used
  - Sports
    - Christians who consider competitive sports sinful and ego-exalting.
  - Music
  - Material wealth

▪ **NOTE – There are Essentials – That DO DIVIDE**

- PLEASE NOTE
- The RIGHT way to JUDGE (Matthew 7)
- Wrong is still wrong
- There are things in Scripture that are non-negotiable.
- There are some things that are just plain wrong.

***1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV)***

**9** *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,*  
**10** *nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*

- People whose lives are characterized by these things won't be in heaven.

▪ **At the CORE of ALL DIS-UNITY**

- PRIDE
- SIN
- At the center of both the words sin and pride... “I”

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> We MUST Strive to Maintain UNITY**

▪ **REMEMBER - REAL Unity – Not Man Made Unity**

- What is Unity?
  - Based on Holy Spirit
  - Based on His peace

- Based on the TRUTH of God's Word!!
- The Fundamentals
- Unity is not uniformity
  - Unity comes from within
  - Uniformity from without!
  - Body of Christ is great in its differences
- **There is no doubt about the importance which God's Places on UNITY**
  - (Psalm 133 / John 17:20-21 / 1 Cor 12)

● **This Morning 4 Powerful Truths - In ALL Things Charity Part 2**

- Determine Not To Be A Source Of Stumbling vs. 13-15
- Dedicate Myself To Fellowshiping After The Lord vs. 16-18
- Decide To Be A Tool Of Edification vs. 19-21
- Do ALL Things With A Clear Conscience vs. 22-23

**Determine Not To Be A Source Of Stumbling vs. 13-15**

● **First: There are things that aren't wrong in and of themselves v. 14**

***Romans 14:14 (NKJV)***

***14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.***

- **1<sup>st</sup> Note – Paul - In Context = Food**
  - Paul is NOT saying that there is NO sin
    - That we can do what we want
  - There is SIN as we have talked about in the intro (1 Corinthians 6:9–10)

- Unconfessed Sin (Not Believing) will keep you out of heaven

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> That there is nothing unclean of itself v. 14a**

▪ **That no foods are Ceremonially unclean any longer**

- As they were for a Jew living under the law
- **Turn To (1 Tim. 4:1-5)**

***1 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV)***

***1*** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

***2*** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

***3*** forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

***4*** For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

***5*** for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

▪ **1<sup>st</sup> ALL Food Is OKAY to EAT**

- Nothing is UNCLEAN
- SO WHY in the World our we Dividing OVER FOOD
- How sad and silly is this –
  - When we have a lost world that needs Jesus and we cant stop fighting about FOOD
  - So again - Why are we as Christians Fighting over
    - NON-Essentials

- The Beef at the market may have been offered to idols BUT it tastes great and all idols are nothing
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Nothing unclean of itself**
  - Critical we get this
    - Some will say the
      - Internet, TV, Radio, Etc... are ALL Evil
      - That Good Mature Christians should avoid them at all cost
  - Remember they are just tools
    - That can be used for GOOD or EVIL
    - Depends on Who is USING it
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Note the Prophecy we See in 1 Timothy**
  - Commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
  - There is a PUSH to stop us from eating meat
  - NY Times - A Case for a Carbon Tax on Beef

• **Second: There are things that can be seen as wrong v. 15**

***Romans 14:15 (NKJV)***

***15*** Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

- **1<sup>st</sup> You are no longer walking in love:**
  - Claim my Rights

- If I sit down to eat with a brother or sister who is stumbled by me eating meat
  - And I claim - My personal liberty
  - I don't care what you think – Its not wrong – I am going to do it – So what
- Then you are NO LONGER walking in LOVE
  - You are being unloving towards one whom Jesus loves and died for.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died:**
  - Don't Destroy a relationship because of a NON-Essential issue
    - If a brother or Sister is Offended because of a Non-Essential issue
    - Even though you're in the right – LET IT GO
  - We MUST PUT on LOVE!!!
    - The Reality – some liberties – NEEDS to be enjoyed in your home or quietly
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson - 4 Reasons to say "NO"**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Conscience**
    - That's the issue in verse 14 and 23
    - If you have a struggle with your conscience about drinking alcoholic beverages
    - Even though you realize that the Scripture allows it (as long as you aren't getting drunk)

- Then you shouldn't be doing it.
- And you can Go down the list -

## ▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> Bondage

### **1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)**

**12** *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

- Keep in mind here that we're still talking about the things that fall into the "Non-Essentials"
  - You cannot twist Paul's words to say that "all things are lawful" could cover something like immorality.
  - Paul makes it very clear in this very same passage that there are some things that aren't negotiable (1Cor. 6:9,14).
- There may be some things that are perfectly fine for you to do.
  - But the question is, can you stop?
  - Does this thing bring you into it's power?
  - People say, "Oh, I can quit any time."
  - But can you?
  - Do you have to do it?
  - If there is something other than Jesus Christ in control of your life, then something's wrong.

## ▪ 3<sup>rd</sup> Profitability

### **1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)**

**23** *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*

- There are lots of things that we can be spending our time doing.
  - The question is, “is it profitable”?
  - Is it worth spending time doing?
  - Does it build you up?
  - Does it build others up?
- **4<sup>th</sup> Love**
    - That’s the issue here in verse 15

**1 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)**

*5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

**Philippians 2:3–4 (NKJV)**

*3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

*4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

- A person exercising agape love does not concern themselves with their own needs before they are concerned with the needs of others.
- Many of the problems we encounter in our relationships with one another occur because
  - We are thinking selfishly
  - We are thinking only about ourselves, and we trample on those around us.

**Dedicate Myself To Fellowshiping After The Lord vs. 16-18**

- **First: My witness as a Christian is on the line v. 16**

***Romans 14:16 (NKJV)***

***16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;***

- **1<sup>st</sup> Do not let your good be spoken of as evil:**

- Our liberty in Jesus and freedom from the LAW is good!
  - But not if we use it to destroy another brother in Christ.
- If we do that, then it could rightly be spoken of as evil.
  - Sometimes we can make people CURSE God.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

- My actions can lead others to blasphemy.
  - We may not ever actually blaspheme with our own mouths
  - But our actions might legitimately cause others to curse God.
- When David had committed adultery and murder with Bathsheba
  - He was confronted by the prophet Nathan – (2 Sam 12:13-14)
- In Romans, the case is not SIN
  - *But because we might cause others to stumble in acting against their convictions.*
  - Illustration
    - Casino – I have no problems going there eating a great dinner riding the super cool go-carts

- BUT I don't want me walking into the casino to stumble another brother or Sister

- **Second: My way of looking at things needs to change v. 17**

***Romans 14:17 (NKJV)***

***17*** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- **1<sup>st</sup> The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking:**
  - If we place food and drink before righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
  - Then we are out of touch with God's priorities and His heart!!!!
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**
  - Focus on the RIGHT Priorities!
    - What's important is that we find life in the Holy Spirit.
      - It will produce 3 things in my life
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Righteousness
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Peace
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> Joy
      - 4<sup>th</sup> We need the Power of the Holy Spirit in our lives TODAY

- **Third: My walk with God will be affected v. 18**

***Romans 14:18 (NKJV)***

***18*** For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

- **1<sup>st</sup> What Matters**

- NOT - What a man eats or doesn't eat that matters
- What Matters – A Holy Life
  - It is a holy life that wins God's honor and man's approval.
  - Those who put the emphasis on righteousness, peace, and joy serve Christ by obeying His teachings.
  - Follow this principle of not causing other people to stumble is a good thing!

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

- A better witness
- Our goal isn't to "impress" people, but to "impact" them.
- When they see that we care enough for others to limit our own freedoms, they begin to get a taste of what Jesus is all about.
- It's all about His love

**John 13:34–35 (NKJV)**

**34** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

**35** *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**Decide To Be A Tool Of Edification vs. 19-21**

- **First: Seek those things that produce peace & edification v. 19**

**Romans 14:19 (NKJV)**

**19** *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> Focus on the Right Things**

- Instead of bickering over insignificant matters

- We should make every effort to maintain peace and harmony in the Christian fellowship.
- Instead of stumbling others by insisting on our rights
- We should strive to build up others in their most holy faith.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

- Building up or tearing down?

***Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)***

**29** *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

- It's too often that we are just good at criticizing one another.
- We need to work at encouraging each other.

• **Second: Sacrifice those desires that might offend a brother or sister v. 20**

***Romans 14:20 (NKJV)***

**20** *Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> Don't be Foolish**

- God is doing a work in the life of each one of His children.
  - It is frightening to think of hindering that work in the life of a weak brother over such NON - Essential matters as food, drink, or days.
- For the child of God, all foods are now clean.
  - But it would be wrong for him to eat any specific food if, in doing so, he would offend a brother or stumble him in his Christian walk.

• **Third: Stumbling a fellow Christian is just plain wrong v. 21**

**Romans 14:21 (NKJV)**

**21** *It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> It is GOOD NOT TO**

- It is a thousand times better to refrain from meat or wine or anything else than to offend a brother or cause him to decline spiritually.
- Giving up our legitimate rights is a small price to pay for the care of one who is weak.
- Don't do things that you know might cause another person to stumble.
- Out of love, not out of legalism

**Do ALL Things With A Clear Conscience vs. 22-23**

• **First: Paul's advice to the strong v. 22**

**Romans 14:22 (NKJV)**

**22** *Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> Do you have faith?**

- If you have [strong] faith, and feel liberty to partake of certain things, praise God!
- But have your strong faith before God
- Not before a brother who will stumble.

• **Second: Paul's advice to the weak v. 23**

**Romans 14:23 (NKJV)**

**23** *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Whatever is not from faith is sin:**

- Paul concludes with another principle by which we can judge “Non-Essential issues”
  - If we can’t do it in faith, then it is sin.
  - This is a wonderful check mark
    - If we are troubled by something, it likely isn’t of faith and likely is sin for us.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

- Live by your convictions
  - If you doubt, don’t.
- There’s a balance needed here.
  - There are times when a person’s convictions are way out of hand.
  - I know of people who feel guilty about everything.
  - If one of these people followed this completely, they wouldn’t do anything.
  - As a general rule, this is a good principle to follow in making decisions.

### **Closing**

- Someone once said, **“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”**

### **Communion**

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)

- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

**1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)**

**23** *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

**24** *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

**25** *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

**26** *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*