

The Unity of Strong and Weak Christians

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 14.

B. We have great freedom in our relationship with Christ.

C. Sometimes people force personal preferences on others, so Paul exhorts people to respond rightly in light of this.

1. We are to receive one another.

2. We are to build up one another.

3. We ought to please each other.

4. We are to rejoice with one another.

D. It is not necessary to do something to prove that one is strong. Our liberty is before God. Whether we exercise it or not does not matter.

II. There is a great difference between having Christian liberty and the use of it.

A. Liberty should not be used for self-deception. (1 Peter 2:16)

B. The exercise of liberty is not for self-destruction.

C. Christian liberty is not for self-retardation.

III. We can avoid offending one another. Be sure that your conduct is not insensitive to other believers.

A. Do not cause your brother to stumble. This means to trip up a believer on the road of spiritual progress. (1 Corinthians 8:9)

B. Do not grieve your brother. If his conscience is harmed, he will be even more afraid of liberty.

C. Do not destroy your brother. We must love a believer enough not to devastate by the use of liberty. (John 3:16, Romans 2:12, 2 John 8)

Application Questions:

1. What are some ways that liberty is abused by Christians?

2. Are Christians supposed to yield at every possible offense? Explain.

3. How can causing a believer with a weak conscience to be destroyed by the exercise of liberty?
