

The Path to Selflessness

Key Scriptures

Romans 14:23-15:7

²³ But the man who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not do so from faith, and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves.

² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good to build him up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself, but just as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ For

everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort

grant you to be like-minded toward one another,

according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Galatians 6:2 *"bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

Key Point: The kingdom of God does not consist of what we eat or drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Picture a new kid at school, going to lunchroom and having no one to sit with. Have you ever had a situation like that when someone accepted you unexpectedly? Have you ever reached out like that?

Start thinking: Questions to get your group thinking.

- Read through Romans 14:23-15:7 with your group. What is Romans 14:23 summarizing? What principle does it give us regarding our conscience? Can you give an example?
- Our passage has an overarching command, to bear the weak instead of pleasing ourselves (15:1-2). What is the difference between "bearing the weak" vs. "bear with the weak?" (Note: the same word is used in Gal 6:2)
- What is Romans 15:4 teaching us? How does 2 Tim 3:16-17 expand on this?
- Paul uses this phrase "be like-minded" often. (For instance, look at Phil 2:2-7). What does it mean to be like-minded in verse 5?
- In Romans 14:1, we are commanded to receive one another. According to 14:3 and 15:7, how are we to receive one another, and to what extent? (I.e.. How did God the Father and Jesus Christ receive us? 15:3)

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- In what ways do you think our experience during covid had to do with stronger and weaker consciences? What principles from this passage would help in situations like this if we applied them?
- Kyle shared how he wrongly thought he was a "stronger brother" because of the things he didn't do (such as drinking alcohol). Are there other areas where being weak or strong is incongruent from what we might normally think?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- In what ways are you already serving others rather than pleasing yourself? In what ways do you need to begin, motivated by Christ's example?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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