

Romans 13: 8-14:23, Loving Others

We are witnessing an increase in divisiveness and hatred in families, in society and between people groups (tribes). Definitions of words are mutating faster than viruses. It is imperative that we know the God whom we serve and the immutable truth of His word, the bible. There is “nothing new under the sun.” His word gives direction on how we are to view and treat those around us.

Day 1: Romans 13:8-14

Read these verses after asking the Lord to open your heart to hear what He has to say to you through His word today.

1. To whom do we “owe” and what do we owe them?
2. When we “do” this what is fulfilled?
3. According to verse 9, in what saying are the commandments listed summed up?
4. What does love NOT do in verse 10?
5. Why are we to do this according to verse 11?
6. Looking at verses 12-14, What are we to cast off? Make a list of these things from verse 13.
7. What two things are we to put on?
8. For what are we to make no provision? Is there something in your life in which you’ve allowed provision for which you should not? Write it/them down and pray for God’s strength to put it off.
9. Reviewing these verses is there a situation in which you “owe” love? What does that look like in action? Is there anything for which you need to confess and seek forgiveness?

Day 2: Romans 14

Read all 23 verses of Chapter 14. As you read consider what issues Paul is addressing.

1. What is the main issue this entire chapter revolves around?
2. This one issue illustrates what we may think of others and therefore how we treat them. What are we to do according to verse 1 and to whom?
3. What are we NOT to do according to verses 1, 3 and 4?
4. Why are we NOT to do these things according to verses 3 and 4?
5. What is another controversy raised in verses 5 and 6? What should each person have settled in themselves?
6. What should be an individual's motivation in these things? What attitude should be shown?
7. How do these verses relate to the verses we studied yesterday—Romans 13:8-14?
8. As you consider the two areas of controversy Paul has raised, are there any others that are relevant to your life or in the news that these same principles can be applied?

Day 3

Read Romans 14:7-12.

1. In verses 7 and 8, what is Paul saying in your own paraphrase? Regardless, what must we know about ourselves?
2. What is the significance of Christ's death and resurrection in verse 9?
3. Why are we not to judge or show contempt for our siblings in Christ?
4. Look up **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**. This verses refer to the "bema" seat judgment of Christ. What is this judgment specifically regarding? What is this judgment NOT about?

5. Read Matthew 7:1-6.

- a. Why do we need to be careful about judging another?
- b. What analogy does Jesus use to illustrate this?
- c. Is Jesus saying we cannot judge another? Why or why not? Think about circumstances etc.
- d. Read **Matthew 7:15-20**.
 - i. What observation does Jesus make?
 - ii. How can we KNOW whether or not a "tree" is good or bad?
 - iii. If the tree is bad, what is its end?

6. So how do we delineate between what should or should not be "judged"? See Romans 14:1. . .

Day 4

Read Romans 13:13-18

1. What should we resolve not to do in verse 13?
2. What does it mean to be a stumbling block to another?
3. What is Paul's example in verse 14-15?
4. What might we do in our "liberty" to a brother or sister in Christ in verse 15-16?
5. What are the REAL issues for those who are part of the kingdom of God according to verse 17?
6. What is the outcome for serving Jesus in these things in verse 18?
7. What can some believers do that could be a stumbling block to others, but is a "doubtful" thing?
8. What issues are not doubtful? In other words, in what issues are we not to negotiate? Think about things Paul called different churches out on.

Day 5

Read Romans 14:19-23

1. What are we to pursue and why according to verse 19?
2. What warning does Paul issue in verse 20?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 8:9-12. What can we do to a brother/sister in Christ if we continue to flaunt “doubtful things” before a believer struggling in these areas?
4. What is the better choice to do than make another stumble in verse 21?
5. What should we do according to verses 22-23?
6. Is there someone you “despise” or consider “weak” because of any of their choices that have nothing to do with their righteousness before Christ? What is God calling you to do?