Fellowship and Romans 14

Tony Mauck · Romans 14:1–15:7

INTRODUCTION

- Our claim to love God is affected by whether or not we choose to love our brother, whom we can see.
- It's the idea of a spiritual sharing of brethren. It's about a commonality and union of people who participate together in the things of the gospel.

1 The Basis for Fellowship

Philippians 1:27; Acts 9

- Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, standing firm in one spirit with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.
- Number one, do we believe this person to be a Christian? Do we believe this person to be in Christ?
- Do we believe this person is living now as a Christian?
- We believe this person is going to thus faithfully contribute to our work together.

2 Fellowship Limits

1 Corinthians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 John 1:9–11

- We can't just fellowship anything and everyone.
- They were given a command to deliver him over to Satan in the name of the Lord Jesus. So obviously a wicked person must be removed.
- Do not be bound together with unbelievers. For what partnership hath righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house. Do not give him a greeting. Withhold fellowship.

3 Romans 14: Pursuing Peaceful Relationships

Romans 14:1–23; Romans 15:7; Romans 16:17–18

- Whatever this says, Romans 14, it must be integrated into the rest of the New Testament and what it teaches.
- Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.
- Whatever we're talking about in terms of differences, God has accepted him. Either side.
- So then, let us pursue the things which make for peace. That's what this chapter is about.
- Wherefore accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

4 Within Certain Limits, Convictions May Differ

1 Corinthians 11

- In some areas, within certain limits, the consciences, convictions, and the faith of people may differ.
- Some things in the New Testament, God deals with only on the basis of principle.
- Why does God leave these areas of judgment? Because wrestling with our faith is a good thing.
- In Romans 14, in these matters, no one sinned necessarily because they believe differently. Sin was involved if they caused their brother to stumble or if you violated your conscience.

5 What Kind of Differences Can We Tolerate?

Romans 15:7; Romans 16:17–18; 2 John 1:9–11

- It does not, however, allow brethren to remain in fellowship indefinitely.
- Accept one another does not apply to every brother with whom we disagree.
- We must learn to tolerate each other when we should and fight error when we must.
- Romans 14 gives no license to those who wish to call good evil and evil good. It is limited to matters of genuine doubt.

6 Romans 14 Is About How We Treat Each Other

- Romans 14 is about how we treat and regard each other. That's the emphasis of this passage.
- Guidelines on how to regard a brother, how to cooperate with and love one another when we disagree.
- It discourages being consumed in needless controversies.

THE CHALLENGE

We need to have the right attitudes toward each other. And let's not tear down what God wants to build up.

MY NOTES