



THINGS THAT MATTER AND THINGS THAT DON'T

"Building Up One Another"

Romans 14:13-23

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MARCH 6, 2016

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1047.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

REVIEW:

1. The Church at Rome, much like the church today, had many different people with different levels of faith, personalities, issues, and convictions.
2. We are called to **Accept One Another** because God accepts, sustains, and is Lord and judge over us all.
3. At the "Judgment Seat of Christ," Christ will reward believers for what they have done for God on earth (rewards); at the "Great White Throne Judgment," unbelievers will be judged for never making Christ Lord (punishment).
4. Some things matter and some things really don't matter.

Handling Each Other with Care

1. Don't harm your fellow believer.

Romans 14:13–15, HCSB -¹³ *Therefore*, [because we are a church with those strong in their faith, and those weak in their faith] let us no longer criticize [lit., judge] one another. Instead decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall [Gk: σκάνδαλον (SCAN-da-lon) from which we get our English word, scandal, it lit. refers to the triggering mechanism on a baited animal trap—it catches an animal off-guard and kills it] in your brother's way.¹⁴ (I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. Still, to someone who considers a thing to be unclean, to that one it is unclean.)¹⁵ For if your brother is hurt by what you eat, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not [lit., "utterly"] destroy that one Christ died for by what you eat.

Romans 14:13, TLB -¹³ *So don't criticize each other anymore. Try instead to live in such a way that you will never make your brother stumble by letting him see you doing something he thinks is wrong.*

2. Don't harm your testimony.

Romans 14:16–18, HCSB -¹⁶ *Therefore, do not let your good* [works and reputation] be slandered [Gk: βλασφημέω (blas-pha-ME-o) lit., blasphemed],¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ Whoever serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and approved by men.

** Here's what the world ought to see in us:*

- **Righteousness** – God's declaration over you; holiness.
- **Peace** – Spiritual calmness, inner core of unflappability, undisturbed by minor irritations of the moment.
- **Joy** – A spiritual and eternal perspective on the circumstances of life.

Romans 14:16–18, TLB -¹⁶ *Don't do anything that will cause criticism against yourself even though you know that what you do is right.*

¹⁷ *For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁸ *If you let Christ be Lord in these affairs, God will be glad; and so will others.*

3. Don't harm your church.

Romans 14:19–23, HCSB -¹⁹ *So then, we must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.* ²⁰ *Do not tear down God's work because of food. Everything is clean, but it is wrong for a man to cause stumbling by what he eats.* ²¹ It is a noble thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother stumble. ²² Do you have a conviction? Keep it to yourself before God. [Lit., "If you have faith, keep it between you and God"] *The man who does not condemn himself by what he approves is blessed.* ²³ *But whoever doubts stands condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from a conviction, and everything that is not from a conviction is sin.*



The Believer is to live in a manner that promotes harmony and builds up other members of faith.

Life Application Section

Will you be a stepping stone or a stumbling block for God?

- A. Do not deliberately cause a brother or sister in Christ to stumble.
- B. Give up your "freedom" when it threatens the peace or hinders the growth of another believer.
- C. Never act from doubt—*only from conviction!*