

# The Strength to Yield

Romans 14:13-23

## Introduction

### I We Are Not to Pass Judgment Over Disputable Matters

- A. We must make up our mind not to **stumble** a brother
  - 1 Cor 8:9; Matt 18:5-6; 1 Jn 2:10
  - 1. No food is unclean in itself - Mk 7:15,19; 1 Tim 4:5
  - 2. If someone regards it as unclean, it is unclean for him
    - 1 Cor 8:4-7
- B. We must not **distress** a brother because of what we eat:
  - 1. If we do, we are no longer acting in **love** - 1 Cor 10:23-32
  - 2. If we do, we are **destroying** our brother - 1 Cor 8:8-12
  - 3. If we do, we are **undermining** the work of Christ
- C. We must not allow what we consider good to become evil
  - 1. The kingdom of God is not a matter of: - Rom 2:24
    - a. Eating or drinking
  - 2. The kingdom of God is a matter of:
    - a. **Righteousness** in the Holy Spirit - Phil 1:11
    - b. Peace in the Holy Spirit - Rom 5:1-2
    - c. **Joy** in the Holy Spirit - James 1:2-4
  - 3. The kingdom of God is matter of serving Christ:
    - a. If I do, I will be **pleasing** to God - Jn 8:29; Eph 5:10
    - b. If I do, I will be **approved** by men - 1 Pet 2:12

### II We Are to Make Every Effort to Maintain Unity

- A. We need to do what:
  - 1. Leads to **peace** - Eph 4:3-4
  - 2. Leads to mutual **edification** - 1 Cor 10:23
- B. We must not destroy God's work over food - Eph 2:10
  - 1. All food is clean, but ... - 1 Cor 8:12-13
  - 2. It's wrong to do **anything** that stumbles a brother
- C. We must not allow our freedom to cause a brother to **fall**
  - 1. The eating of meat or the drinking of wine
  - 2. The practicing of any **disputable** matter - 1 Cor 9:19-23

### III We Are to be Fully Assured of God's Will for Our Lives

- A. Whatever you believe about disputable matters:
  - 1. Keep between yourself and **God** - Acts 24:16
- B. How you handle disputable matters will lead to either:
  - 1. The **blessing** of God for the man who:
    - a. Does not condemn himself by what he approves
  - 2. The **condemnation** of God for the man who:
    - a. Who has doubts about eating without assurance
- C. The final litmus test for disputable matters:
  - 1. Everything that does not come from faith is **sin** - Heb 11:6

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

- 1. Have you ever been stumbled or distressed by another believer's freedom? What were the circumstances? What impact did it have on your life and on your relationship with that person?
- 2. What freedoms are you exercising that have the potential to stumble others around you? Would you be willing to give them up if you became aware that even one person was being stumbled by it? Why or why not?
- 3. According to Paul, when does a "freedom" that we have in Christ become sinful? How does this whole concept of demonstrating our spiritual strength by yielding to others' sensitivities fit in with Romans 12:1-13:14?
- 4. Imagine the following scenario: A believer who is exercising their freedom discovers that their freedom is stumbling another believer. Their argument is that the "weaker brother is the one with the problem." "Why should I have to be the one to make adjustments to my lifestyle, when he is the one with the problem?" Based on Romans 14, how would you respond?
- 5. Take a few moments to humble yourself before God. Ask Him to give you a greater love for Him and for the body of Christ and to give you the "strength" to surrender your freedoms for the benefit of the "weaker" brothers and sisters in your life.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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