

April 6/7, 2013

The Gospel Story: Not For Ourselves

A Study of Romans

Romans 14:1-23

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. How would you define a “grey area”? What are some examples? What’s the difference between a grey area and something that’s black and white?
2. What experiences have you had with people judging you for doing something you believed you had freedom in Christ to do? Was the issue resolved or not?
3. What experiences have you had with other people exercising their freedoms in such a way it was hurtful to you? What was the result? Did you try to talk to them about the issue? What was the result?

Bible Study

1. Read Romans 12:1-3, 21; 13:8-14. How are we to live “in Christ”?
2. Read Romans 14:1-4. Specifically how are we to “put on Christ” according to these verses? What is the problem? Who is at fault? Give a modern day example of an issue that might create this same problem?
3. What is meant by “weak in faith”? Is this a difference of opinion or something more?
4. What are the reasons Paul gives for responding rightly?
5. Read Romans 14:5-12. What are the differences between something the bible states is clearly a sin issue and the issues discussed in this text? Could people on both sides of the issue be sincere and seeking God’s best?

6. According to this text why should we not judge one another in these “grey” matters?
7. Read Romans 14:13-23. How can something that is good become evil? What is the guiding principle in such matters?
8. How do you define a brother or sister “stumbling?” How do you define “gives offense”? Does this text mean that every time someone disagrees with how you exercise your freedom you have to give up that freedom? Why or why not?
9. Summarize this whole chapter. What does it mean to “put on Christ” according to this chapter?

Application

1. Each Christian may find himself/herself on both sides of this principle. At times your freedom may negatively affect another Christian causing him/her to stumble. At other times you may be the one offended and stumbling because of someone else’s freedom. What’s the key to managing ourselves through these type of situations?
2. Is freedom in Christ a freedom to do as we please or does it have limitations? What are those limitations? What are some things we can do to help the weaker Christians around us?
3. What would be the main thing that you personally take away from this text?