

Orchard Community Church

AVOIDING STUMBLING BLOCKS: Romans 14:13-23

Small Group Discussion

Answer the following questions:

Note: In reference to the “one who is weaker in the faith” – here is a definition: “[It is] weakness in assurance that one’s faith permits them to do certain things” (John Stott, Romans, pg. 355).

- 1) Based on Romans 14:13-23, what does it mean for a Christian, especially one who is stronger in faith, to be a stumbling block? Has there ever been an aspect of your Christian life that has been a stumbling block to other believers? If so, how so?
- 2) What does Paul mean that “nothing is unclean” in verse 14 (see also: Acts 10:15; Mark 7:15; 1 Timothy 4:1-5)? What does Paul mean that “it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean” (see also: 1 Corinthians 8:4-13)?
- 3) How might a stronger Christian cause a weaker Christian to be grieved and/or destroyed in this context (vs. 15)? Give an example of how this might happen. How is this the opposite of “walking in love?”
- 4) How does verse 16 relate our reputation to our Christian freedom (see also: 1 Cor. 10:28-33)? Why is this important?
- 5) How does verse 17 put this whole discussion into perspective?
- 6) Since we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8) and we are to please God not man (Galatians 1:10), how is verse 18 possible i.e. what does Paul mean by this verse (see also: Matth. 5:16; John 13:35; 2 Cor. 8:21)?
- 7) According to verses 19-21, how can exercising freedom to the hurt of weaker Christians “destroy the work of God” (see also: 1 Peter 2:5; Eph. 4:12)?
- 8) How have you seen Christians flaunt their freedom? What is Paul’s remedy for that in verse 22?
- 9) What can the weaker Christian learn from verse 23 in regard to their conscience and/or convictions?
- 10) What are some other areas, like food, that can cause a stumbling block for those weaker in the faith?
- 11) What are some areas that you might be weaker in the faith? What can you do to grow stronger in these areas?