

Keeping Clean Consciences

Romans 14:1-15:13

Review:

1. Outline the book of Romans by filling in these blanks:

I. _____ Romans 1:1-1:17

II. _____ Romans 1:18-3:20

III. _____ Romans 3:21-5:21

IV. _____ Romans 6:1-8:39

V. _____ Romans 9:1-11:36

VI. _____ Romans 12:1-15:33

VII. _____ Romans 16:1-27

2. What commands can you REMEMBER from chapter 12? Without looking in your bible, write down as many as you can remember. How often have you brought these to mind during the week? Take a look back now at 12:1 & 2 and write down how you have been doing in offering your body and renewing your mind.

Read 14:1-12.

3. In verses 1-6, Paul is instructing the Romans in how to treat people with different opinions or convictions. What are the two issues that Paul brings up in these verses?

Read 14:13-23

8. What are some of the present day issues that this chapter could be applied to? What are you tempted to judge others for? What are some of the "gray areas" of the Christian life with differing opinions? How might you be putting a stumbling block in your brother's way in one of these situations?

9. According to verse 18 and its near context, what does it take to be acceptable to God and man? What then, does verse 19 say you should do about it?

10. Verse 22 says, "happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves." Does this mean that Christians have license to do whatever they want? Why or why not?

11. When does your action become sin, according to verse 23? How is it possible for one action to not be sin for one person and to be sin for another, all at the same time?

Read 15:1-13

12. What are the strong believers to do in order to not cause brothers to stumble? Why is Christ the great example for believers to follow according to verse 3?

13. What the end results of a selfless attitude that are as is seen in verses 5 and 6?

14. Verses 8-12 show two purposes for Christ's service, one for the Jews and another for the Gentiles. What are they?

15. Paul gives a benediction to the Roman Christians in verse 13. In keeping with the theme of loving your neighbor by bearing his weaknesses and edifying him, pray this benediction for your friends and your family. Pray for them by name.

“What a comfort to have a good conscience! It will uphold us in sickness, in death, and at the day of judgment. Let the devil object what he can; let our own unbelieving thoughts object what they can—if we have a renewed, sanctified conscience, it can answer all. Though we be ever so vexed in this world, we are never truly overcome until our conscience is cracked. If our conscience stands upright, we conquer, and are more than conquerors. Conscience is either the greatest friend or the greatest enemy in the world. When it knows we have obeyed God in all things, conscience is a friend that speaks to God on our behalf. Then again at the hour of death, what a comfort a good conscience will be! And especially at the day of judgment—a sincere heart, a conscience that has labored to obey the gospel—it can look God in the face.”

(Richard Sibbes, Adapted into modern English and abridged from a sermon originally titled, “The Demand of a Good Conscience” first published in Sibbes’s *Evangelical Sacrifices*, published in London in 1640.)

Memory Verses:

Romans 14:10

Romans 14:17

Romans 15:13