

Romans 14:1 - 15:13 You're Not the Boss of Me

2/21/10 - The Exchange

- I. "You're not the boss of me."
  - A. Ever say that? Ever had it said to you?
    1. There are times we will put ourselves under others. There are times we will not.
    2. In Jesus there are times when we are and times we are not. Rom 14 describes times when we are not. Back in the church.
    3. Need to get into the heads of the first readers. Need to see principle in light of original context. Secondary spiritual stuff.
  - B. What we are going to read is primarily a Jew/Gentile issue.
    1. The line between liberty and legalism had become blurred.
    2. Consequently, ppl on both sides of issue weren't showing love, weren't doing 13:11-14.
    3. Diff. between legalism and holiness is where your heart is.
- II. 14:1-13
  - A. 14:1
    1. receive - take to yourself, like food
    2. weak - in this context meaning easily disturbed or unsettled. Like jello. Like Vera on Alice, C-3PO, Sponge Bob.
    3. disputes over doubtful things - attempts to to divide or discern a truth from something you aren't certain of already. doubtful augmenting weak.
    4. Point - while Paul's primary thrust is going to be how we treat those we disagree with, there is a practical point to consider.
      - a) Is everything involved with or connected to being a disciple of Jesus absolutely black and white? No.
      - b) What then are the criteria for discerning?
        - (1) The word
        - (2) The wisdom and experience of others
        - (3) Common sense
    5. Some examples of these doubtful things they were disputing
  - B. 14:2-4 weak one eats only vegetables
    1. Jewish issue - meat sacrificed to idols. Perhaps some Gentiles joined in, possible.
    2. despise - in contrast to receive, treat with contempt, belittle, treat as nothing
    3. judge - having considered and arrived at a conclusion, a bad one
    4. received - same as before
    5. judge another's servant - you aren't supposed to live up to my standards, nor me yours. We each are to live up to our Lord's. Can these standards be different for different people? Yup!
  - C. 14:5-8
    1. esteems - same word for judge before
    2. fully convinced - no hesitation, no room for jello wiggles
    3. to the Lord vs to himself - who are you doing this for and why?
    4. live and die - literally? Sure. Figuratively? Sure. Balance each other out.

- D. 14:9-13
1. The Lordship of Jesus over all.
  2. brother - remember who we are to one another
  3. judgment seat - believers before the judgment seat? Yes. For judging saved or not? No, reward. 1 Cor. 3:10-15. Think you are doing something special pointing out everyone else's spiritual junk? Think again!
  4. Instead of focussing on making the other person to stop doing what we think is wrong, let's instead focus on ourselves so as to not trip each other up.
- III. 14:14-23 To the believer, everything is spiritual to some degree. Does that mean we get to be the HS for each other? Yes and no. Remember criteria - word, wisdom, common sense.
- A. 14:14-18
1. 14:14 clean and unclean - Again, Jewish food context, but making a principle.
  2. 14:15 Don't flaunt your liberty in such a way that it offends and makes sad a brother or sister.
  3. 14:16 If you do, the freedom you have will be bashed by them.
  4. 14:17 - Don't make the kingdom about something it isn't. Jesus didn't die and rise again to usher in a new brand of legalism.
  5. 14:18 - God accepts the one, and is confirmed by others.
- B. 14:19-23
1. 14:19 - If there is a side issue that hangs you up about someone, let it go and focus on the good.
  2. 14:20 - Don't make one do something against his conscience.
  3. 14:21 - "You're stumbling me."
    - a) Used by the weaker to make the stronger not enjoy their freedom ever, making the act into a sin issue when it isn't.
    - b) Not the point. Remember the weaker isn't to judge the one who eats.
  4. 14:22-23 What we are all supposed to do. Alcohol, smoking, TV, music, movies, hobbies, etc. The word, wisdom, sense.
- IV. 15:1-13
- A. 15:1-6
1. 15:1-2 Instead of writing off the weaker (thereby pleasing ourselves) we ought to do what we can to lovingly build them up, let them grow into the freedom they can have.
  2. 15:3-4 Jesus our example, the word our instructor
  3. 15:5-6
    - a) patience to deal with one another
    - b) comfort to get through the stress of growth and conflict
    - c) one mind, one mouth, one goal - glorify God, ultimately bring ppl to Jesus.
- B. 15:7-13 Paul's wrap up.
1. 15:7 What were we in our conduct compared to Jesus? Whatever we are no, we should receive each other the same.
  2. 15:8-12 Jews and Gentiles. 1:16.
  3. 15:13 What it is all about, only by the power of the Spirit.