

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Lesson Presenter: Sis. Lottie Jackson – Women’s Class
Lesson # 11 Tuesday August 08, 2023 – Sunday August 13, 2023

Unit III: God’s Eternal Reign

Subject: Build Up One Another

Text: Romans 14: 10-23

Key Verse:

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another (Romans 14: 19, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Judge Self (Romans 14: 10-13)
- 2) Consider Others (Romans 14: 14-19)
- 3) Focus Faith (Romans 14: 20-23)

Introduction

The main message in this lesson is to stop judging each other, regarding secondary matters, of religious practice about food and holy days. Paul prioritized the evidence of a strong spiritual character, above an outward observance of religious rules and rituals. Spirit-led Christians reflect the character of God. Our lives are a powerful witness to others, that, God is real, God is present, and God is active in the world. God is love, and a life that reflects His transforming love, is the best and most authentic demonstration of what it means to be a child of God.

Topics:

1. Judge Self (Romans 14: 10-13)

Paul is saying that the day of judgement is real, and it is coming. Judging other Christians now, is not our job. Paul quotes mostly from the second half of Isaiah 45: 23, to support the idea of God judging our works, doing the end times. When every knee will bow and every tongue confess, in acknowledgement that Christ is Lord. Everyone gathered at that judgement, shall give account of their own spiritual walk, making sure no one was harmed by their words or deeds. Paul previously referred to Christians, who don’t eat meat for religious reasons, as being weak in faith. They are not convinced that God in His grace has freed them from legalism and certain prohibitions on foods. Paul did not condemn these “weak in faith” believers, however, instead, he told the stronger Christians to fully accept those and not to try to argue them out of their opinions. Now Paul calls for a new action: Not to put anything in the way of other Christians, judge yourself, rather than your brother or sister.

2. Consider Others (ROMANS 14: 14-19)

Here, Paul is saying: In the area between religious restrictions and freedom in Christ, it is more important to walk in love than to walk in freedom. Yes, we're free to disregard the Jewish dietary rules and holy days: but not if walking in that freedom grieves or destroys our fellow Christians, we, who are in the Lord Jesus, are fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself, but if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. Perhaps you're good at seeing a person's shortcomings, because God is calling you to help them. There is nothing evil about noticing shortcomings in each other, it's our response that makes all the difference. Do something practical for that person's benefit, pray for them, talk with them, send them a card, defend them, encourage them, forgive them. Do something that helps them to move forward. Don't pass judgment, decide to serve instead. The Kingdom of God is of righteousness, Christian living, having up-right conduct, peace, harmony, joy in the Holy Spirit. Believers are to be "well pleasing to God" and "respected by men." So, instead of engaging in conflict, Paul urges the believers to pursue that which makes for peace and to build up our fellow believers.

3. Focus Faith (Romans 14: 20-23)

Paul begins to say in a more straightforward way, to what he has already allude. In previous, verse, he put it positively. He urged those Christians who are strong in their faith to pursue what leads to peace and building up of each other. Now he says it negatively, telling these free Christians not to tear down or destroy the work of God for the sake of food. Plainly, Paul is telling these Christians with stronger faith, to be willing to give up eating the meat they are free to eat, if that will build up and unify the church, instead of dividing it and tearing it down. Don't do what is wrong, instead, do what is 'God' good. If it shows love to a "weak in faith" fellow believer, it's worth that. Christians with a strong faith, their conscience allows them to freely enjoy what was restricted for God's people in the law of Moses. Nothing is unclean for those who are in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 4: 4-5 'For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.' That is why we pray over our food and give thanks to God. There is no sin in eating meat or drinking wine. Paul says, to eat and drink these things between you and God. However, those of weaker faith, who do not feel free to eat or drink, must not violate their conscience; until they are free in Christ to do so. For he, that doubteth is damned if he eat or drink, cause he eateth not in faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Verses 22-23 are clear; everyone must have a standard for his or her conduct. If one is not eating "from faith," putting it another way, he is eating against his own faith. Focus on Faith