

ROMANS 55 – 14:1-5

Grace and the Weak Brother

1. Context

- a. We must be aware of the context 1) in Romans; and 2) in the 1st century church
- b. Grace teaches us to do right, by loving one another – Rom 12:10, 28, 13:8, Gal 5:13
- c. There are sins under the law (13), and then sins of conscience (14) – 1Cor 8:7,11-12
- d. Paul taught mystery, not of the law, let no man judge you – Rom 6:14, Col 2:16
- e. Peter received Paul, but had some rules – Acts 15:1-4,10, 19-20, 28-29, Gal 2:2-10

2. 14:1

- a. This is the grace principle of dealing with weak brethren
- b. Under the law, the weak broke it, the strong obeyed it – Rom 8:3, Gal 4:9
- c. But now, the weak is of knowledge of mystery – 1Cor 8:4-7, 14:20, Rom 10:2
- d. There is milk and meat: milk = 1Cor 2:2, 3:2. Heb 5:11-14; meat = Col 1:9-11, 2:10
- e. The disputations were between Jew and Gentile believers both saved

3. 14:1-4

- a. “receive ye” – not to stone them, cut them off, reject them from the assembly
- b. There were times to reject – Ti 3:10, 1Cor 5:5, 16:22; Gal 1:8, 5:12; Rom 16:17
- c. “doubtful disputations” – 2 kinds: 1) doubtful in the Bible; 2) what the weak doubts
- d. Times where Israel doubted – Acts 2:12, Acts 10:17, Rom 14:23
- e. Paul disputed when it was not doubtful – Acts 15:2, 15:7, Acts 17:17, 19:8-9
- f. We don’t debate each other in matters of conscience – Phil 2:14, 2Ti 2:14, 1Ti 6:2-5
- g. 1) eats all things, is strong in faith, despises; 2) eats not, weak in faith, judges
- h. “for God hath received him” – God received the Gentiles – Rom 15:16, 1 Cor 9:2
- i. “who art thou that judgest” – like Rom 2:1, 2:17 – this is speaking to the Jew
- j. “God is able...” – a reference to the God of Israel - Isa 40:29, Psa 18:35, 37:17, 37:28

4. 14:5

- a. Persuaded *def.* = Convinced, proven, drawn to a determination, assured
- b. Assurance *def.* = trust, full persuasion, confidence, steadiness, certainty
- c. “let every man be fully persuaded” – An admonition to teach/ learn the truth
- d. Paul is not excusing ignorance, but for every man to discern and grow – Eph 4:15
- e. Things mistaken for persuasion:
 - i. Boldness – loudness is not certain – 1 Cor 5:6 “glorying is not good”
 - ii. Stubbornness – a characteristic of unbelief - Rom 2:5, Acts 7:51, 1 Cor 2:15
 - iii. Authority – status does not make them infallible – Gal 2:6,11; 5:7-8
 - iv. Tradition – popularity or repetition does not make it true – Col 2:8
 - v. Education – gainsayers will be educated - Titus 1:9-11, 1 Cor 1:26-28, 2:4-5
 1. “ever learning” - 2 Tim 3:7

Things not Doubtful in the Bible

1. That God is true – Rom 3:4
2. God keeps his promises – Isa 63:16
3. We are all sinners and cannot glory in ourselves – Rom 3:10, 1 Cor 1:29, 2 Cor 12:1
4. Christ is God manifest in the flesh – 1 Tim 3:10, Col 2:9-10, Luke 11:20
5. The gospel that he died for our sins – 1 Cor 2:2
6. The gospel of his resurrection for our justification – 1 Cor 15:1-14
7. Paul's special apostleship - 1 Cor 9:2
8. The knowledge of Jesus Christ according to the mystery – Phil 3:8
9. Prayer has a purpose – 1 Tim 2:8

Doctrines Doubted by Weak Brethren

1. Circumcision – Acts 15:1
2. Eating meat offered to idols – 1 Cor 8, Rom 14:2-3
3. Head coverings – 1 Cor 11:5
4. Sabbath days, new moons, holy days – Col 2:16