

Lesson 11. Ethics and Christian Liberty

Resources: Feinberg, J. S., & Feinberg, P. D. (1993). Ethics for a Brave New World. Wheaton, IL:

Kaiser Jr., Walter C. (2009) What Does the Lord Require. USA: Baker Academic

Key Passage: Rom 14-15

- I. The first question is *Am I fully persuaded that it is _____?* Paul says (Rom 14:5, 14, 23) that whatever we do in these areas, we must be persuaded it is acceptable before God.
- II. Second, *Can I do it as _____?* Whatever we do, Paul says we must do as unto the Lord (Rom 14:6–8).
- III. Third, *Can I do it without being a _____ to my brother or sister in Christ?* Much of Romans 14 (vv. 13, 15, 20–21) concerns watching out for the other brother’s or sister’s walk with the Lord.
- IV. Fourth, *Does it bring _____?* In Rom 14:17–18 Paul says the kingdom of God is not about things such as the meat we eat or what we drink. Instead, it is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- V. Fifth, *Does it _____ my brother?* The command to do what edifies is in the same verse as the charge to do what brings peace (14:19). By juxtaposing the two demands, Paul makes an important point. Some activities may not create strife with another Christian, but they may not edify him either. One must choose activities which both bring peace and edify.
- VI. Sixth, *Is it _____?* In 1 Cor 6:12 Paul addresses the issue of Christian liberty, and he reminds believers that morally indifferent practices are all lawful, but they may not all be profitable.
- VII. Seventh, *Does it _____ me?* (1 Cor 6:12). Many activities, wholesome and valuable in themselves, become unprofitable if they master us more than Christ does.
- VIII. A final test is *Does it bring _____ to God?* Paul discusses Christian liberty in 1 Corinthians 10, and in verse 31 he sums up his discussion by saying that whatever we do in these areas should bring glory to God.
- IX. An Ethical outline from ISA 33:15
 - a. He walketh righteously-He walks right
 - b. He speaketh uprightly-He talks right

- c. He despiseth gain of oppressions-He never goes after ill-gotten gain
- d. He shaketh his hands from the holding of bribes-Doesn't accept bribes
- e. He stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood-Never involved in evil plots. He doesn't want to hear any evil.
- f. He shutteth his eyes from seeing of evil-he doesn't want to see an evil.