

Romans: The Gospel

## Nothing Unclean (From Faith)

Romans 14:1-23, 1st Corinthians 8

<p>Mushrooms, celery</p> <p><b>[Pray] :1</b></p> <p><b>Week...needy!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs more faith</li> <li>• Superficial faith, shallow</li> <li>• <b>Not bad, could be deeper</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Baby, sick (legalism), malnourished, exercise</i></p> <p><b>Receive: take in to friendship</b> Who do we have fellowship with? Do we take in new folks? <i>Bible study as a new believer</i></p> <p><b>Be careful of the Holy huddle</b> <b>How would anyone be disciplined?</b></p>	<p><b>but not to <u>disputes!</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doubtful things</li> <li>• <b>Iron sharpens iron</b></li> <li>• <b>people like to fight, over disputable things</b></li> </ul> <p><i>“weak or rebellious?” DG</i></p> <p><b>You don’t have to keep inviting those arguments, or people</b></p> <p><b>Titus 3:9-11 - But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are <b>unprofitable and useless.</b> Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.</b></p>
<p><b>:2</b></p> <p><b><u>Confident</u> faith - eats everything</b> <b><u>Weak</u> faith - eats vegetables</b></p> <p><i>The sadness of a diet</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idol Sacrifice</li> <li>• Cheaper meat in the market</li> <li>• Daniel, vegetable diet</li> </ul> <p><b>These weren’t for physical health reasons, but supposed spiritual</b></p> <p><i>OT legality in a Gentile world</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden of eden, food better then, no death</li> <li>• Noah, after flood</li> <li>• Peter, rooftop vision</li> <li>• Modern Veganism</li> <li>• The luxury of food choice</li> </ul> <p><b>Turn to 1 Corinthians 8</b></p> <p><b>Food itself won’t make you <u>right</u>, or <u>wrong</u>, with God!</b></p> <p><i>Old message on sacrifice and demonic</i></p>

<p><b>A world obsessed with saving animals</b></p> <p>We should take care of animals, not be cruel...but there's reason and reality and delusion</p> <p><i>Girl wanting bacon that was nice to the pigs</i>  <i>"One bad day"</i></p> <p><b>same world is fine with killing babies</b></p>	<p><b>"Clean food"</b></p> <p>With the amount of hunger in the world, we should be thankful we have the ability to feed ourselves so much</p> <p><b><u>What you eat is your choice, but you must come to realize that it does you no SPIRITUAL benefit</u></b></p> <p>As much as i hate mushrooms, it does not make me more spiritual  Or pork, or halal, or kosher</p>
<p><b>We must stop acting like it makes us <u>stronger believers</u></b></p> <p><b>It actually <u>reveals our weaker faith</u></b></p>	<p><b>Mark 7:18-23</b> - So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, <b>"because it does not enter his heart but his stomach</b>, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <b>"All these evil things come from within and defile a man."</b></p>
<p><b>:3-4</b></p> <p><b>The key, with everything: love</b>  <b>Not despising</b> the other person</p> <p><b><u>Both</u> might be trying to honor God</b></p> <p>We have to respect our own <b>conscience</b> towards God</p> <p><i>Grace for you, legalism for me</i>  <i>Not for salvation, but from it</i></p>	<p><b>we are both God's servants</b></p> <p>God is the one who decides if we're doing a good job</p> <p><i>Jew, Gentile</i></p> <p><b>Acts 21:25</b> - "But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality."</p>

**:5-6****Sabbaths, new moons****The key - done unto the Lord?****Has the lord required it?****Or man?****Do we do it to be seen by God or man?***Christmas, Easter  
Reformation day***The day I'm living to celebrate -  
is the day of Jesus****If the exact day mattered,  
we'd be in trouble**What day is it actually since creation?  
No way to actually know**Superficial belief**Not thinking the consequence of the belief all  
the way through**Back to surface, vain, physical things to  
worship**

Instead of God

**Returning to man-centered  
ordinances shows our personal  
relationship has suffered***Spending more time looking at old photos of  
my wife versus hanging out with her***Colossians 2:16-17** - So let no one judge  
you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival  
or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a  
shadow of things to come, but the substance  
is of Christ.**:7-9****We're all connected  
All of our lives affect  
each other's lives****Decisions**

Husband, father, brother, friend, neighbor

**We all belong to Jesus**And pleasing Him is what matters  
He controls our lives and our deaths**Our aim? Live for him, encourage  
others to****Lord of the dead and the living**

Physical life isn't the whole story

Whether our physical bodies are alive or  
dead, God is the Lord of our life**Matthew 22:31-32** - "But concerning the  
resurrection of the dead, have you not read  
what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am  
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and  
the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the  
dead, but of the living."**Those who have died in Jesus are still  
alive**

**:10-13**

## **We spend so much time pointing the finger**

Easy, makes us feel good

## **Instead of lifting each other up**

*If you're so enlightened and better spiritually, don't point the finger, help me!*

## **Standing at the judgment seat is a big deal - we should want others to receive reward**

**Their reward doesn't diminish ours.**

*I think we'll be held more accountable for how we judged others more so than what we've done ourselves...*

*We might stumble or cause our brother to fall in two ways. discourage or beat them down through our legalism or by enticing them to sin through an unwise use of our liberty. DG*

**Matthew 7:1-5** - "Judge not, that you be not judged. **For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.** "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? **"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

**John 21:21-22** - Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? **You follow Me."**

**:14**

## **Not Paul's opinion**

Pharisee, law was everything

*Clean and unclean foods*

**As with Peter,  
Only Jesus could convince Paul**

**Titus 1:15-16** - **To the pure all things are pure**, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

**An age when people call unholy things holy and holy things unholy**

**When people make a big deal about literally nothing**

**It's not a stomach issue,  
It's a heart issue**

**There are unclean things**

*this isn't an excuse to smoke drugs*

**"God made weeds so"**

1. Product of the fall
2. Smoking is unhealthy
3. God tells you to be sober
4. Nice try

**We spend an inordinate amount of time focusing on the things that don't matter**

**Instead of loving God and each other!**

**Matthew 23:4-7, 13, 23-26** - "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' ... "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ... **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.** These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. "Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

**Colossians 2:20-23** - Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which **all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

**Don't judge faith by externals**  
**Do's OR don'ts**

*Shallow, superstitious, short-term appearance of good*

*Kid's powerpoint on Monster energy and movies, conspiracies*

Probably right in some things

**When the flesh controls the flesh,**  
**the flesh likes getting the credit**

**:15**

**No longer walking in love!**

You know it's just a burger, but it's hurting your brother's **FAITH**

**Flesh offense OK, faith offense, not OK!**

**Jesus died for them, too!**

*Even if we can, don't stumble them*

**Don't confuse selfishness with spirituality**

<p><b>1 Peter 2:16</b> - as free, yet not <b>using liberty as a cloak for vice</b>, but as bondservants of God.</p> <p><b>In the Christian's life, self is to be last</b> God, others, self!</p> <p><i>We tend to make it God, self, others Or worse...</i></p> <p><b>Practical things with spiritual roots</b></p>	<p>So if your brother struggles with the meat sacrificed to idols Eat a salad when you're at lunch with him And over time, gently lead him to a deeper faith <b>So he can enjoy a burger with a clear conscience</b></p> <p><b>1 Timothy 4:4-5</b> - For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.</p>
<p><b>:16-21</b></p> <p><b>Like last week, what day, feast, kingdom living for? God's feast is the eternal!</b></p> <p>The peace and joy of a right relationship with God In the Holy Spirit By the feast of communion with Jesus</p>	<p><b>We spend a lot of time pursuing food</b></p> <p><i>Approval for what we can do or get away with for the flesh</i></p> <p><b>Instead - should pursue things for peace and edifying each other</b></p>
<p><b>Imagine if we did everything we could to make peace with God and each other with God</b> Praying instead of judging Putting others first instead of putting others down Living to God, serving each other</p>	<p><b>Even pure food, if eaten with intent to offend...evil</b></p> <p>We do so much for the approval of others and not of God! When we do what God wants, people will look on an approve</p>
<p><b>:22-23</b></p> <p><b>A personal faith</b> - you know it's OK, not sinful, feel free to enjoy between you and God</p> <p><b>Don't force it on anyone else</b></p>	<p><b>This doesn't mean your faith is private This isn't about evangelism, not sharing</b></p> <p><b><u>This is about being confident in your faith And helping others grow confident in theirs</u></b></p>

<p><b>Ephesians 3:16-18</b> - that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be <b>strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints</b> what is the width and length and depth and height--</p>	<p><b>What is not from faith, is sin</b></p> <p><i>This is more than food It's our relationship with God And others</i></p> <p>Doing good works, not out of faith - sin! "Lord we cast out demons!" "Depart from me wicked"</p>
<p><b>We have to stop relying on ourselves</b></p> <p>On our own ideas, opinions On what feels spiritual to us What we think makes us right with God</p> <p><b>And let the scripture guide us</b></p>	<p><b>Hebrews 11:6</b> - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.</p>
<p><b><u>If you can't do it as an act of faith, don't do it</u></b></p> <p><i>Conscience and "gray areas"</i></p> <p><b><u>Eat or don't eat - in faith</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Celebrate or don't celebrate - in faith</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>But weak faith misses out on greater truth...</u></b></p> <p><b>That Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice</b></p> <p><b>The feast of heaven</b></p> <p><b>The days &amp; celebrations here are just a taste of the eternal celebration</b></p>
<p><i>Is there something legalistic we're wrapped up in instead of a relationship with God?</i></p> <p><i>Is there a clean liberty in our life that is stumbling someone else?</i></p>	<p><b>God help us live in strong, confident in <u>God</u> faith</b></p>