

“In ALL Things Charity Pt.1”
Romans 14:1-13
5/28/23
Message 27

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “In ALL Things Charity”
- **Sadly - Disunity has always been a major problem with God's people.**
 - **1st Remember the old saying**
 - *To dwell above with saint's we love - O, that will be glory. But to dwell below with those we know - Well, that's a different story!*
 - **2nd In the OT –**
 - It records the civil wars and family fights among the people of Israel!
 - **3rd In the NT –**
 - Almost every local church mentioned in the New Testament had divisions to contend with
 - The Corinthians
 - Were divided over human leaders
 - Some of the members were even suing each other (1 Cor. 1:10–13; 6:1–8).
 - The Galatians
 - Were “biting and devouring” one another (Gal. 5:15)
 - The Ephesians and Colossians

- Had to be reminded of the importance of Christian unity (Eph. 4:1–3; Col. 2:1–2).
- The Philippians
 - Two women were at odds with each other and, as a result, were splitting the church (Phil. 4:1–3).
- **4th Sadly - This is Still Problem with God's People Today**
 - **Being CRITICAL and TEARING other believers apart is Still very much alive in the church today**
 - *Leslie Flynn writes in his book Great Church Fights; "Wide disagreements exist today in our churches over certain practices. A Christian from the South may be repelled by a swimming party for both men and women, then offend his Northern brother by lighting up a cigarette. At an international conclave for missionaries, a woman from the Orient could not wear sandals with a clear conscience. A Christian from western Canada thought it worldly for a Christian acquaintance to wear a wedding ring, and a woman from Europe thought it almost immoral for a wife not to wear a ring that signaled her status. A man from Denmark was pained to even watch British Bible school students play football, while the British students shrank from his pipe smoking.*
 - Swindoll;
 - *"Believe as I believe—no more, no less;*
 - *That I am right (and no one else) confess.*
 - *Feel as I feel, think only as I think;*
 - *Eat what I eat, and drink but what I drink.*
 - *Look as I look, do always as I do;*
 - *And then—and only then—I'll fellowship with you."*

▪ Swindoll, *Growing Strong*, p. 286

- Churches have been ripped apart by ALL these and MORE
- **List some issues from CCA**
 - Examples of DIS-UNITY
 - Paint
 - Color
 - Building Issues
 - Events
 - Harvest NIGHT
 - We Want the Money spent...
 - Power Struggles
 - My ministry is more important than yours
 - We don't want you in that ministry
 - Consumer Mentality
 - We want to BE Served
 - But we DON'T WANT to serve
- **At the CORE of DIS-UNITY**
 - PRIDE
 - SIN
 - At the center of both the words sin and pride... "I"
- **This is a problem at EVERY Church**

- It has ever been a problem from the beginning and will be until the end
- As Christians this should not be our attitude
- **5th We MUST Strive to Maintain UNITY**
 - **REMEMBER - REAL Unity – Not Man Made Unity**
 - What is Unity?
 - Based on Holy Spirit
 - Based on His peace
 - Based on the TRUTH of God's Word!!
 - The Fundamentals
 - God as Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - The virgin birth and divine nature
 - The Death Burial & Resurrection of Jesus
 - We are not united with those outside of this truth!
 - We can't manufacture it!
 - We simply need to walk worthy in it!
 - Man - Made attempts to create unity
 - It is what we call the ecumenical movement!
 - They are saying all we need is love
 - We don't need Doctrine – All we need is love!
 - THIS Will ALWAYS FAIL

- Unity is not uniformity
 - Unity comes from within
 - Uniformity from without!
 - Body of Christ is great in its differences
 - Only God can pull so many people from all over the world and create this unity!
 - Celebrate it!
 - Who wants to be at a church where we all act the same?...
- **There is no doubt about the importance which God's Places on UNITY**

- Psalm 133

Psalm 133 (NKJV)

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

- 1** *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*
- 2** *It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.*
- 3** *It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

- Jesus, in his High Priestly prayer

John 17:20–21 (NKJV)

- 20** *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;*
- 21** *that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

- Paul – We are ONE BODY
 - 1 Corinthians 12

- We must work together

1 Corinthians 12:17–18 (NKJV)

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

• **Romans 14**

- **Deal with Majoring on the Majors and Minor on the minors**

- “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

- **PLEASE NOTE**

- The RIGHT way to JUDGE (Matthew 7)
 - Wrong is still wrong
 - There are things in Scripture that are non-negotiable.
 - There are some things that are just plain wrong.

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV)

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

- People whose lives are characterized by these things won't be in heaven.

• **Review**

- **Remember The Context is still Romans 12:1**

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- As the followers of Christ
 - We're called to moral excellence.
 - We're called to virtue (Holiness) because we don't just know what Truth is, we know Truth Himself.
- Romans 1-11 = DOCTRINE
- Romans 12 = DUTY
- Doctrine = DUTY
- **What A Living Sacrifice Looks like**
 - **Romans 12:2**
 - NOT Conformed But Renewed
 - **Romans 12:3**
 - Right Attitude about yourself
 - **Romans 12:4-5**
 - You are now a part of His Body – Every Part does it's share
 - **Romans 12:6-8**
 - Use your gift for the glory of God and to build His Body
 - **Romans 12:9-21**
 - LOVE / Love the Body / Love the World
 - **Romans 13:1-7**

- Good Citizens
 - For God's Sake vs. 1-2
 - For Your Own Sake vs. 3-4
 - For Conscience Sake vs. 5-7
- Put on Christ
 - The Call To Love vs. 8-10
 - The Call To Urgency vs. 11-12
 - The Call To Walk With Christ vs. 13-14

• **Now This Morning 3 Powerful Truth on In All thing Charity**

- We Need To Receive One Another vs. 1-4
- We Need To Recognize The Non - Essentials vs. 5-6
- We Need To Remember The Lordship Of Jesus Christ vs. 7-12

We Need to Receive One Another vs. 1-4

• **First: Receive one who is weak in the faith v. 1**

- **1st We are to accept those weak in the faith v.1a**

Romans 14:1 (NKJV)

1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

▪ **The Word Receive**

- Receive –
 - Greek: Proslambano
- Means:
 - (“toward” + “to receive”) – to take to; to take as one's companion; to take or receive into one's home, with the additional idea of kindness; grant one access to one's heart; to take into friendship

- **NOTE - Paul doesn't just use the simple word for "Receive" (lambano)**
 - But he uses a bit more intense word, one indicating closeness.
 - Paul uses a "middle voice", meaning you "receive to yourself"
 - Paul uses an "imperative", this is a command.
 - Paul uses a "present tense", meaning that this is something we do now, and continually.
- **This means we are to TAKE Seriously.**
 - Paul warns us to not make spiritual maturity a requirement for fellowship.
 - NOTE:
 - We should distinguish between someone who is Weak and someone who is Rebellious.
 - There are Many Reasons a Christian may be weak
 - They may be a babe in Christ
 - They may be sick or diseased
 - They may be malnourished (May have lack good solid teaching)
 - They may lack exercise (Needing Exhortation).
 - **Lesson –**
 - Paul Says RECEIVE THEM –
 - Fellowship with them

- Be Patient with him
- We're are a part of helping people grow in Christ
- We should never shun ANYONE
- Hear MY HEART
 - NO one is better then ANYONE else
 - We are ALL on Equal footing before the cross of Christ
 - Every Person –
 - Should actually be seen by you as being BETTER
 - To not receive another because of background or being not as mature in the faith –
 - IS just STUPID
 - Show an Arrogance (that somehow I have arrived)
 - We MUST never forget this – I am just one beggar telling other beggars where the BREAD of life is
- **Pastor Chuck let the Hippies in! when others would NOT**
 - He even had problem with people in the church leaving because he did
- **2nd BUT Not to Dispute – Debate with**

Romans 14:1 (NKJV)

1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

- Don't debate with them regarding doubtful things.
- Lesson –
 - AKA –
 - Don't try to straighten everyone out on NON-Essentials
 - Don't be CRITICAL
 - *A.T. Robertson: "The "strong" brother is not called upon to settle all the scruples of the "weak" brother. But each takes it on himself to do it."*
 - Sometimes a "mature" Christians
 - Will try to take someone "under our wing" for the purpose of "setting him straight" Or Fixing
 - Just be careful what you're trying to straighten out
 - WE ARE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - Some things are just Non-Essential
 - Are you attempting to mold them IN YOUR IMAGE?
 - Or Are you attempting see them Grow and be molded in Christ image?

• **Second: Eats only vegetables v. 2**

- **1st For One Believes he may Eat all things v. 2a**

Romans 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

▪ **Context**

- Perhaps they refused meat
 - Because they feared it was meat sacrificed to a pagan god (as in 1 Corinthians 8).
 - Because it wasn't kosher, and they stuck to Jewish dietary regulations and traditions.
- Many believe what was taking place
 - Both Jews & Gentiles worship side by side.
 - But a dispute arose with eating meat.
 - The meat sold at the market comes from being offered to pagan gods in an act of worship
 - They would offer some of the meat on the altar to their evil god
 - But most of it was sold at wholesale prices to the meat-sellers in the marketplace.
 - It was then resold to customers who took it home to use in their meals.
 - Perhaps the Jewish community would have absolutely nothing to do with idols so they shunned the meat-market, buying only from the single kosher butcher in town.
 - The Jews who'd become believers continued this practice; as Jews they wanted to remain kosher even though they'd come to faith in Jesus as Messiah.

- And this is where the problem began,
- Because Christians love to fellowship with one another.
- And fellowship usually means sharing a meal.
- But when Jewish believers went to the homes of their Gentiles brothers & sisters, the meat was from the pagan meat-sellers.
- The Gentiles had no problem with it because they'd come to see idols as nothing.
- In their minds, meat was meat; whether it came from a kosher butcher or someone else made no difference.
- Jewish believers were scandalized!
- How could Gentiles dally with idols like this.
- They were so upset, they gave up meat altogether & became vegetarians & convinced several Gentiles to join them in refusing meat.
- Lines were drawn when the vegetarians' refused invitations to the homes of meat-eaters.
- They called for the meat eaters to repent & become vegetarians, refusing fellowship with them until they complied.
- The Meat-eaters refused, so the vegetarians left to start a new church. They called it, First Church of Vegetarians.

▪ **Make Clear**

- MEAT is very much okay to EAT

1 Timothy 4:4–5 (NKJV)

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- **2nd He who is weak eats only vegetables v. 2b**

Romans 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For one believes he may eat all things, **but he who is weak eats only vegetables.**

- **PLEASE note what Paul says here**

- In God's mind, the weak brother is the WEAKER one

- They were weaker because of their

- Legalistic attitudes and lack of love towards others.

- Illustration –

- Worship leader who was Vegan

- **Define Legalistic**

- To make a Law / Behavior

- That says in order to be SAVED you must Do...

- Or in order to be spiritual you must do...

- **We Preach HOLINESS**

- WALK WORTHY of the salvation you have been given

- Be sensitive to His Word and the Holy Spirit leading in your life

• **Third: Be Careful Judging our brother & Sisters vs. 3-4**

- **1st Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat v. 3**

Romans 14:3 (NKJV)

3 *Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.*

- **Despise –**

- Despise - Greek: Exoutheneo
- Meaning: (“out of” + “nothing”) – To make of no account, despise utterly, to look on someone as totally worthless
- This seems to carry the idea
 - That you look at a person and think they’re not saved anymore because of what they’re doing.
- It would be easy for a Christian who felt free to eat meat to despise others as hopeless legalists.
 - It would also be easy for those who did not eat meat to judge those who did.
 - But God has received those Christians who eat meat.

- **Judge**

- Greek: Krino –
- Means: To separate, to pick out, select, choose; to approve, to prefer; to judge; to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong; the
- In context - To Judge in an inappropriate manner
 - We can judge according God’s Word (Matthew 7)
 - We can’t judge (Condemn) a SOUL

- AKA = You can't judge another person by what you think is right or wrong unless it lines up with scripture

▪ **Lesson - Life ain't fair - Get over it.**

- There may be times when you feel a conviction about something from the Holy Spirit, and you may indeed be correct.
- But that doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit has put the same conviction about the same thing on others as well.
- Illustration
 - Some here may have the conviction to NEVER drink alcohol
 - BUT we can't go beyond what is written in God's Word
 - God does not say we can't drink – He says we can't get drunk
 - So Don't pass your conviction onto another
 - BE sensitive to each other respect other convictions
 - More on this in a minute
- **2nd Who are you to judge another's servant? v. 4**

Romans 14:4 (NKJV)

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

▪ **Stop PLAYING God**

- There is a lot of useless, harmful division among Christians over silly, Stupid things.

- Paul isn't telling these Christians to erase their differences
- Paul is telling them to rise above them as Christian brothers and sisters.
- Stop dividing over NON-Essential issues

We Need To Recognize The Non- Essentials vs. 5-6

- **First: Opposite viewpoints can both be right with God vs. 5-6**

Romans 14:5–6 (NKJV)

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

○ **2nd One Person Esteems**

▪ **A problem in the early Church**

- Some of the Jewish believer wanting to keep the Sabbath (Saturday)
- Other wanted to move the day to Sunday to celebrate the resurrection

▪ **What happened the Apostle**

- Assembled on Sunday the first day of the week

Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

2 *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

- **Paul also dealt with this issue in Col. 2:16**

Colossians 2:16 (NKJV)

16 *So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,*

- **Sadly – this is still an issue today**

- Some of our Seventh Day Seventh-day Adventist believe we are sin for meeting today
- They could NOT be further from the TRUTHS of GOD'S Word

○ **2nd Lets Look at some of these Silly – Studied Issue we divide over**

- Some Christians have strong conviction on

- Facebook / Social Media
- Buy from Amazon
- Christmas Trees
- Target
- Movie Theaters
- Cosmetics
- Alcohol
- Tobacco

- Illustration – Spurgeon / Moody

- Card Playing / Gambling
- Dancing
- Fashion
 - Trendiness is viewed by some Christians as worldliness
- Bible translation used
- Sports
 - Christians who consider competitive sports sinful and ego-exalting.
- Music
- Material wealth

We Need To Remember The Lordship Of Jesus Christ vs. 7-12

• First: We live and die to the Lord vs. 7-9

Romans 14:7–9 (NKJV)

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

- **1st For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself:**
 - **Keep in mind that Paul is addressing believers.**
 - The lordship of Christ
 - We don't live to ourselves but to the Lord.

- We don't die to ourselves but to the Lord
- Paul reminds the Roman Christians that "No man is an island."
- *MacDonald; "The lordship of Christ enters into every aspect of a believer's life. We don't live to ourselves but to the Lord. We don't die to ourselves but to the Lord. It is true that what we do and say affects others, but that is not the thought here. Paul is emphasizing that the Lord should be the goal and object of the lives of His people."*
- **2nd Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's:**
 - From beginning to end, our lives are to be dedicated to God.
 - Therefore, whatever we do, we do it to the Lord – because Jesus is our Lord (that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living)

• **Second: We will all face judgment before Jesus vs. 10-12**

- **1st But why do you judge your brother? V. 10a**

Romans 14:10 (NKJV)

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

- **The WEAK Christian found it easy to judge his brother**
 - Writing him off as an unspiritual meat-eater-compromiser.
 - The free Christian found it easy to show contempt against his brother, regarding him as a uptight-legalistic-goody-good.
- **Essentially...**
 - Paul's answer is "Stop worrying about your brother. You have enough to answer for before Jesus."

○ **2nd The judgment seat of Christ vs. 10b-12**

Romans 14:10–12 (NKJV)

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? **For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

11 For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

▪ **1st For the Believers**

- This is the bema seat
- Smith; Equivalent to the judge's seat in the Olympic Games. After each game, the winners came before the judge's seat to receive crowns for first, second, and third places. Likewise, the Christian's works will be tested by fire, and he'll be rewarded for those which remain... The judgment seat of Christ is only concerned with a Christian's rewards and position in the kingdom, not with his salvation.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (NKJV)

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

▪ **2nd Every knee shall bow:**

- The quotation from Isaiah 45:23 emphasizes the fact that all will have to appear before God in humility, and give account of himself before God.
- If this is the case, we should let God deal with our brother.

▪ 3rd Lesson

- Ultimately –
 - If we don't do things out of love, then it's worthless
- Hear me please – Bema Seat
 - This has become so important for me in the last few months
 - We are ALL going to stand and give an account
 - FEAR God – NOT judgment but FEAR Him
 - We are NOT here for ourselves we are HERE for HIM and OTHERS
 - Make your life count – make sure you get a BIG CROWN – OKAY

• **Third: Summary v. 13**

Romans 14:13 (NKJV)

13 *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

- **1st Let us not judge one another:**
 - Again - STOP IT - How many times does God need to tell us... haha
 - Note Again – Rebellious believers need to be dealt with

- This does not take away the need and the responsibility for admonishment (Romans 15:14) or rebuke (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - When we admonish or rebuke, we do it over clear Scriptural principles, not over doubtful things. We may offer advice to others about doubtful things, but should never judge them.
- **1st Not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way:**
- We might stumble or cause our brother to fall in two ways.
 - We can discourage or beat them down through our legalism against them, or we can do it by enticing them to sin through an unwise use of our liberty.

Closing

- Someone once said, **"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."**