

Free From Slavery

Message 13

Beyond Tolerance

Romans 14:1-15:13

(Read Romans 14:1-13)

Introduction

Christian position on war in Iraq...

What is right?

What shall we do about those who disagree?

Who are the Weak?

probably Jewish Christians

issues: food and days

food – non-kosher; meat sacrificed to idols

days – other than Sabbath

weakness of faith, not of will or character

not issues of salvation, but of discipleship

Welcome the Weak

Accept the weak without judging him (14:1-13)

God accepts him

Christ is his Lord

he is your brother

God will judge us all

– Failure to accept is judgment against God's acceptance

Protect the Weak

Don't destroy the weak (14:14-23)

he is your brother

God's kingdom is more important than food

conscience must be honored

Serve the Weak

Don't please yourselves (15:1-6)

Christ's example

Must the weak remain weak always?

some may

the remedy is sound teaching + prayer and sacraments

Current Disputes

war

alcohol

R movies

bikinis and bonnets

frequency of communion

mode of baptism

Christian holidays
Lord's return
mechanism of creation

Who are the weak? Each will think the other is, but it doesn't matter!

non-issues:
creation
fornication
homosexuality
creed

Conclusion: Accept Each Other

Accept each other (15:7-13)
as Christ accepted us
not for argument and criticism
love – not mere tolerance
all in one body in Christ
the love of Christ beats tolerance
this love is the only means of true unity and social harmony

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