



# The Book of Romans

## How to be Right with God

(Romans 14:14-23)

The Practical Application from our Justification:

(Romans 14:14-23)

*“The Law of Love”*

# Outline:

1. Unity on the essentials ch. 1-11
2. Harmony on the non-essentials

## 1. Unity on the essentials ch. 1-11

- The universal need for justification 1:18-3:20
- The only means of justification 3:21-4:25
- The benefits of justification 5:1-7:25
- The ramifications of justification 8:1-39
- The justification of the nation of Israel 9-11

## Outline:

1. Unity on the essentials ch. 1-11
2. Harmony on the non-essentials

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14

1. The Law of Love  
vv. 14-23

# 1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14

## Observation:

- “I know and am convinced”
- “by the Lord Jesus”
- “that there is nothing unclean of itself”
- “but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean” cf. 4:3, 5, 9, 10, 22

## 1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14

### Summary/Application:

- Paul is fully convinced in the Lord that things in and of themselves are not evil or unclean.
- But if someone gives credit to something as unclean. Then for them it is unclean. This is where conscience comes into the picture.



1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15

# 1. The Law of Love

vv. 14-23

## 2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15

### Observation:

- “Yet” (there is an important exception)
- “if your brother is grieved because of your food”
- “you are no longer walking in love”
- “do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died”

## 2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15

### Summary/Application:

- The exception to everything being clean is if it is considered unclean by you or especially by your brother.
- If we put liberty over love, then we could “destroy” the one whom Christ died for.

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

### 3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16

#### Observation:

- “Therefore”
- “do not let your good” (the thing you consider clean)
- “be spoken of as evil”
- Lit. “Don’t let the good be blasphemous”

### 3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16

#### Summary/Application:

- If we let liberty trump love and it causes a brother to stumble, then that area of liberty has now been used for evil purposes.

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16
4. The rationale for the principle v. 17

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 4. The rationale for the principle v. 17

### Observation:

- “for”
- “thing kingdom of God is not eating and drinking”
- “but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”



## 4. The rationale for the principle v. 17

### Summary/Application:

- Paul uses the eternal abode of believers to remind us the thing we should be emphasizing in this life.
- The kingdom is greater than the liberty we have now. So, we should see the kingdom principles as foremost now.

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16
4. The rationale for the principle v. 17
5. The result of living this principle v. 18

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 5. The result of living this principle v. 18

### Observation:

- “For”
- “he who serves Christ in these things”
- “is acceptable to God”
- “and approved by men”

## 5. The result of living this principle v. 18

### Summary/Application:

- The believer that lives under the kingdom principles is 1- accepted by God and 2- approved by men.
- Would you rather this... or to live for what you approve personally?

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16
4. The rationale for the principle v. 17
5. The result of living this principle v. 18
6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19

### Observation:

- “Therefore”
- “let us pursue”  
(to follow in haste in order to find someth., run after, pursue)
- “the things which make for peace”
- “and the things by which one may edify another”

## 6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19

### Summary/Application:

- The believer is commanded to pursue peace and edification towards other believers.
- This is contrasting not pursuing liberty at the expense of love.

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16
4. The rationale for the principle v. 17
5. The result of living this principle v. 18
6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19
7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23



## 7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20

### Observation:

- “Do not destroy the work of God”
- “for the sake of food”
- “all things are indeed pure”
- “but it is evil for the man who eats with offense”

## 7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20

### Summary/Application:

- The one approving of the area of liberty is destroying the believer in whom God justified.
- They are justified in what they approve... but evil if they use that and it causes offense.

1. Cleanliness is next to godliness v. 14
2. When liberty becomes sin v. 15
3. The principle for the one at liberty v. 16
4. The rationale for the principle v. 17
5. The result of living this principle v. 18
6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19
7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20
8. The harmless sacrifice v. 21

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 8. The harmless sacrifice v. 21

### Observation:

- “It is good”
- “neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything”
- “by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.”

## 8. The harmless sacrifice v. 21

### Summary/Application:

- Sacrificing personal liberty for the sake of loving fellow believers is good.
- This good sacrifice doesn't ask a lot from the believer at liberty.
- This sacrifice is pursuing those things that will be what the kingdom is all about.

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4. The rationale for the principle v. 17
5. The result of living this principle v. 18
6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19
7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20
8. The harmless sacrifice v. 21
9. The blessing of liberty v. 22

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 9. The blessing of liberty v. 22

### Observation:

- “You have faith?” (“the faith which you have” NASB)
- “Have it to yourself before God” (“have as your own conviction before God” NASB)
- “Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.”

## 9. The blessing of liberty v. 22

### Summary/Application:

- IF you are one who approves the area of liberty, keep the practice of that area of liberty between yourself and God.
- There is blessing that comes to the one who does this... and by doing this they won't condemn themselves in what they approve. Because it will never cause a fellow believer to stumble.



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5. The result of living this principle v. 18
6. Pursue peace and edification v. 19
7. Don't destroy the work of God v. 20
8. The harmless sacrifice v. 21
9. The blessing of liberty v. 22
10. The condemnation of doubt v. 23

## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

## 10. The condemnation of doubt v. 23

### Observation:

- “But he who doubts” (this is the one who can’t approve the area of liberty)
- “is condemned if he eats” (Lit. “if they eat, they have condemned themselves”)
- “because he does not eat from faith”
- “for whatever is not from faith is sin”

## 10. The condemnation of doubt v. 23

### Summary/Application:

- If you are one that cannot approve the area of liberty, but you partake anyways, you have condemned yourself.
- Because the practice was not done through faith it was done by succumbing to the temptation of what they don't approve.
- Whatever is not from faith is sin

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## 1. The Law of Love vv. 14-23

