

CrossRoads Baptist Church
November 26, 2006 10:00 am
Romans 14:14-19; 15:1-2
Neighbor Series #5

“Loving My Neighbor...The Family of God”

Romans 14: 14-19; 15:1-2 (NLT)

¹⁴I know and am perfectly sure on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. ¹⁵And if another Christian is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶Then you will not be condemned for doing something you know is all right.

¹⁷For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God. And other people will approve of you, too. ¹⁹So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

¹We may know that these things make no difference, but we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves. We must be considerate of the doubts and fears of those who think these things are wrong. ²We should please others. If we do what helps them, we will build them up in the Lord.

Deuteronomy 1: 28 “Where can we go up? Our brethren, have discouraged our hearts, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven;”

I. Whatever I do always affects others.

There are weak in faith – Romans 14:1

There are those weak in knowledge I Cor 8:7 don't know enough

There are those weak in conscience I Cor 8:7

There are those weak in will power I Cor 8:10 – easily persuaded to violate conscience

My actions can cause others to stumble (cause another to fall into sin), be distressed (cause others to be upset) or destroyed (cause others to lose their faith).

They were:

Arguing over diets – whether eat meat or not

Arguing over days – what is right day to worship

Arguing over drink – drink a little or none at all

Things that didn't really matter.

When someone is arguing over these things, have patience and teach them.

II. All that I do is to build others up.

John 15: 12 Love one another as I have loved you (repeated at least 13 times in the NT)

Romans 12: 10 kindly affectionate one to another, preferring one another

Romans 14: 13 don't judge one another

Romans 15:7 receive one another

Romans 15:14 admonish one another

Romans 16:16 salute one another with a holy kiss (repeated at least four times)

Galatians 5:13 serve one another

Ephesians 4:2 forbearing with one another

Ephesians 4:32 kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another

Hebrews 10: 24 consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking assembling of ourselves, but exhorting one another

Colossians 5:26 (NLT) don't irritate one another or be jealous of one another

James 4:11 (NASB) don't speak against one another

James 5:9 (NASB) do not complain against one another

James 5:16 (NASB) confess your sins to one another and pray for one another

I Peter 4:10 (NASB) serving one another

III. Why We are to Build Each Other (Romans 15:1-13)

A. The responsibility is for every believer (1-2)

B. The reason is the example of Christ (3-4)

C. The results is that the church is unified and God is glorified (5-13)

Four marks of a united church (verse 13): joy, peace, hope, power