

Champions/Women of Destiny

Year 2 LESSON 22



To Do or Not to Do ... That's the Real Question!

Read: Romans Chapter 14 through Chapter 15:13

Vocabulary

Esteem – to distinguish, determine, approve, choose.

Infirmities – convictions that are self-made rather than based on Scripture.

Edifying – building up, strengthening, encouraging another believer.

Offend – to entrap, to entice to sin, to hurt or harm.

Kari was hanging out with some of her friends at home while her mom was out shopping for groceries. They had put on a movie, a documentary about Teen Pregnancy and Abortion for a report they were doing for their Health Class. Though the movie was good to watch, it was graphic in nature. After 15 minutes into the movie, Kari's little sister Diane came down the stairs to hang with her sister.

Kari stopped the movie and changed the channel to a TV program more suitable for her sister to watch. She told her friends that they would watch it later when her mom gets back to watch her sister. Though Kari was free to watch this movie with her friends, she chose to look after the best interest of her sister who was too young to watch what she was watching.

In chapters 14 and 15 of Romans, Paul further explained that the inward relationship which we have in Christ should be evident in our daily lives.

It's possible for Christians to go to two extremes in their daily living. One extreme is the attitude that there is **no difference between the way Christians live and the way the world lives** (Philippians 3:17-19). The other extreme is the attitude that **everything is wrong**. People with this attitude



sit around judging what everyone else is doing and thinking of themselves as superior (Col. 2:20-23). We need a balance. Justification in Christ didn't give the Romans, nor does it give us, the freedom to do what we want to do. But how do we figure it out? ***How do we know what is right and what is wrong?***

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY (Rom. 14:1-21)

Paul explains that first we must consider what God says (v.12). He is Lord. We all must answer to Him. Obviously, the more we study God's Word, the better prepared we will be to **discern right and wrong**. Now Paul continues. God gives us certain commands; they are spelled out clearly in the Bible. For example, **read Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-6**. Other things, however, are not clearly explained, and people have different opinions as to whether those things are **right or wrong**. Paul gives a couple examples. Some people honor one day above another (14:5-6). Some people feel it is wrong to eat certain foods (14:2-4). Many of our Church denominations have a specific emphasis important to their own congregation.



But it is not so much what we do in certain situations as it is our attitude toward others (14:3-4). Paul wrote about the **“weak”** Christian who has a problem choosing what is right. The **“weak”** person tends to yield to temptation and therefore easily falls back into sin. He or she needs to stay away from tempting situations. Paul also wrote about the **“strong”** Christian as the one who is mature in his or her faith and stands firm against temptation.

Paul also wrote that the **“strong”** Christians were to *encourage* rather than to *judge* the **weaker** Christians (1 Cor. 8:13; 1 Thess. 5:14). The spiritually **strong** person isn't to look down on the **weak** person. The illustration of Kari and her sister in the beginning of this lesson is simplistic. Kari could have watched her movie without a problem, but it would have been wrong for her little sister to watch it. Her younger sister did not have the intellectual or emotional maturity to watch a movie about teen pregnancy and abortion. Spiritually, decisions such as these might be harder to determine. You might have the spiritual maturity to go somewhere or do something that your **“weaker”** Christian friend couldn't handle.

For example, Tony read/watched pornographic materials before he became a Christian. Now, not only does he stay away from those sites where he used to watch that material, he now has a filter on his phone and computer that blocks those kinds of things. He knows the temptation is still there, and he doesn't want to put himself in a position where it would be easy for him to yield to that temptation. Yet, his other “Christian” friends frequent those sites all the time and never even think about or have any desire to not go to those sites.

On the other hand, the weak person, who is strict in a certain area, shouldn't judge the strong person who can handle the situation. Our main concern should be whether our decisions are right in God's eyes. **Please understand, you could be the weaker brother or sister in one area and the stronger brother or sister in another area.**



WHAT DOES YOUR CONSCIENCE SAY? (Rom. 14:22-23)

Do YOU think an activity is wrong? Do YOU have uncomfortable feelings about it? Paul wrote: “Your personal convictions-exercise them as in God’s presence, keeping them to yourself [striving only to know the truth and obey the will]. Blessed is he who has no reason to judge himself for what he approves [who does not convict himself by what he chooses to do].”-Amplified

When we live the way the Lord wants us to live, then we are at peace. Our conscience is clear. (But remember, not all Christians will necessarily agree with you concerning your choices). Sometimes you make a wrong decision, you go somewhere or do something and then wish you hadn’t. Use that experience to help you make the right choice next time.

WHAT DO OTHER PEOPLE THINK? (15:1-11)

You decide a situation is all right, but another Christian thinks it’s wrong. Are you going to offend that person (entice or cause to sin) by going ahead and doing it? For the good of the other person, would it be better to stay away from that activity (15:2)? **Even though an activity might not hurt you, what value is there in harming someone else so you can have your own way?** We are NOT talking about things the Bible says are sinful; like drunkenness, sex outside of marriage, lying, etc. Those are clearly sin.

Listen Up

Paul sums up the subject in Romans 14:19: “So let us then definitely aim for and eagerly pursue what makes for harmony and for mutual upbuilding (edification and development) of one another.” Let’s look at this verse phrase by phrase.

- *So let us definitely aim for* – the word aim means to seek eagerly.
- *What makes for harmony* – things or situations which would not harm a weaker Christian.
- *For mutual upbuilding* – To build a house, or in the spiritual sense, to help someone grow in wisdom and grace.

So the Bible teaches us that we are to seek those things and situations which don’t hurt a weaker Christian. Therefore, we are to seek those things which help another person grow in wisdom and grace.

Memory Verse

Now we who are strong ought
to bear the weaknesses
of those without strength and
not just please ourselves. ²
Each of us is to please his
neighbor for his good, to his
edification.

Romans 15:1-2

Living Out The Lesson

Though you do not have to turn this portion of the lesson in, please take advantage of answering these questions. It will be beneficial to you or your future decision making. –Kids Across America

Directions: Describe a recent situation in which you questioned what would be right or wrong. Write it here and then answer the rest below:

- What was the final decision?
- How did you feel after the situation was over?
- Did anyone question your decision?
- How did you come to your decision?
- Did you study God's Word and pray about it?
- Did you listen to your conscience?
- Did you analyze whether it would hurt or offend a weaker Christian?
- Will you make a different decision the next time you're faced with a similar situation?

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

<https://youtu.be/0SVTI4Xa5fY?t=441>

Champions and Women of Destiny

LESSON 22 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/wFEKHr3fSVJExZBw6>

Student name _____
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. Our inward relationship with Christ should be evident in _____.
2. What two extremes are possible in a Christian's daily living?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
3. Colossians 3:5-9 and Galatians 5:19-21 list things that are definitely wrong for the Christian. List five of these "things."
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
4. True or False. Justification in Christ gives us the freedom to do what we want to do.
5. Name two specific situations Paul used to illustrate the Romans' confusion between right and wrong:
 - _____
 - _____
6. True or False. It's not so much what we do in certain situations, but our attitude toward the other people who are involved.
7. Fill in the blanks. Strong Christians are to _____ rather than _____ weaker Christians.
8. Fill in the blank. The weak Christian needs to be careful not to _____ the strong person.
9. When faced with a "doubtful" situation, you need to....
 - a) Consider what others might think about your choice and how it may affect their Christian life.
 - b) Flip a coin. Heads do it, tails you don't.
 - c) Make up your mind and don't worry about your decision offending other people. After all, it's your life.
10. In your own words, explain the meaning of Romans 14:19.