

Living Free in a Community of Grace (Part 2) Romans 14:13-15:4

In a Community of Grace,

You are called to pursue the kingdom of God over food Romans 14:13-18

“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 8:17)

- Don't let trivial/non-essential things like food cause a fellow Christian to stumble from pursuing the Kingdom of God (v. 13-15)
- You are serving Jesus and the Kingdom of God when you allow the Fruits of the Spirit to be more important than Your Freedoms (v. 16-18)

In a Community of Grace,

You are called to pursue other people's good above your own interests Romans 14:19-15:2

“Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.” (Romans 15:2)

- The Christian life is about building others up, not tearing others down (Romans 14:19-23)
- The Christian Life is not about pleasing your own interests (v. 1)
- The Christian Life is about pleasing your neighbor for their good (v. 2)

Your motivation for 'Living Free in a Community of Grace' is the truth that God has pursued you, cleansed you of sin and gave you hope through Jesus Christ Romans 15:3-4

“For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, ‘THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.’” (Romans 15:3)

- Look to Jesus as your Savior and your example (v. 3)
- Look to God's Word in the Bible for encouragement and hope (v. 4)

Digging Deeper

Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself when living in a community of grace.

**Adapted from Jim Newheiser*

1. Is this decision clearly forbidden by Scripture? (See Romans 13:13)
2. Would this decision/choice tempt me to sin? (See Matthew 5:29-30)
3. Would this decision tempt others to sin? (See Romans 14:13-15)
4. Would this decision cause a weaker Christian to be offended? (See Romans 14:13-15)
5. While enjoying the freedom in Christ to make this decision, would forgoing this freedom bring added peace and unity to my Christian community? (See Romans 14:19)

LifeGroup Questions:

Read Romans 14:13-15:4 out loud as a group and then answer the following questions:

1. Why are you responsible for how your life choices impact a fellow Christian? (see Romans 14:13-15)
2. Re-read Romans 14:17 out loud as a group. What is the Kingdom of God about? How should this impact your daily life as a Christian?
3. Are there freedoms you experience in your Christian life that you are feeling called to give up for the sake of other Christians? If so, share with your group for accountability and encouragement.

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus today!** Read through the booklet called “The Way to Connect with God” available in the seat rack in front of you. You can also meet with someone from our Prayer Team at a Prayer Point during worship or after service today.
2. **Join a LifeGroup** this Fall. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To find out more about LifeGroups, contact Laura Copeland at 714.550.2398 or visit calvarylife.org/lifegroups
3. **Pursue relationship reconciliation through counseling.** To find out more about the Calvary Life Counseling Center, contact Care Ministries at 714.550.2334 or visit calvarylife.org/counseling