

The Main Point : We give each other room to grow—the Lord grows us.

The Context: The context of this Scripture is meat bought at the temple butcher shops. The meat was left over from the sacrificial animals and sold to the general public. Worship of pagan gods in these days involved bringing animals for sacrifice to the god and then eating the meat of the animal as part of the worship. There was an emphasis that the god filled the sacrificial animal—so to eat the animal was to take the god into one's body and soul. Our God is the only living god. From the Christian point of view therefore, the meat contained no god—it was harmless as meat not sold in the temple butcher shops. However, some new Christians who had been involved in the worship of these no-gods were still uneasy about eating meat from the temple butcher shops.

Overview

- 1-V1 A general truth is that the more mature a person becomes the less most things matter to him or her. A person who is _____ in the Christian faith tends to get offended, fearful, and excited about a lot of little things that have little or no connection to walking with Jesus.
- 2-V2-4 We are to be kind to each other—therefore we are not to look _____ on or condemn people who feel differently about non essential viewpoints and practices. We are all _____ to God. We are God's _____ and responsible to Him. It is the Lord's _____ that will enable any of us to do and be what is right for each of us.
- 3-V5-6 There are many little issues in the Christian community. Unfortunately making these little issues big issues have caused church divisions and the creation of denominations. Two of the little issues mentioned here are what _____ are more holy than others (none) and what kinds of _____ most honor the Lord.
- 4-V7 The antidote to fighting in the family is each person checking his motives and heart to see if he or she is really living to _____ the Lord or to please their own prejudices, fears, and ambitions. The secret to peace is for no one to insist on their own way. The main thing the Lord wants is----- for brothers to live together in unity. (Psalm 133)
- 5-V8 We cultivate a lifestyle where we are always asking ourselves in our daily situations and relationships--- "Lord what would _____ you right now?" This causes us to _____ to him in real living and this life with him continues right into heaven.
- 6-V8-9 " While we live, we _____ to please the Lord. When we die, we go to be _____ the Lord. So in _____ and in _____ we belong to the _____. Christ died and _____ again for this very purpose that he might be _____ of those who are _____ and of those who have _____."
- 7-V10-11 When we _____ other people we are making our selves into judges. But for us there is only one judge--- and we will stand before the judgment seat of _____. At that time every person ever born on earth will _____ to Him and _____ Him
- 8-V12 Yes, every one of us will have to give _____ to God of how we managed **our** own lives—not somebody else's life. It is hard enough to live our own lives to please God--- so we decide to leave other people alone—not put an _____ in their path
- 9-V14-16 Getting back to the issue of food. On the authority of _____ Paul says that no food or drink is in and of itself _____ to eat. God created it and he created every thing good. Properly everything should be received with thanksgiving. (I Timothy 4:4)
- 10-V17-19 The high road. " The _____ of God is not a matter of what we _____ or _____ but of living a life of _____ and _____ and joy in the _____. " This will _____ God and other people

will _____ of us. Harmony is created by focusing on _____ up each other.

11-V20 Although there is nothing wrong with any food or drink-- it is wrong to flaunt our freedom and perhaps cause another person who has _____ to _____

Word Study • WEAK • OBSTACLE • LORD'S POWER • JUDGEMENT • RIGHT or WRONG • BELONG • PLEASE •

- 1. V 1 _____ Everything that God created is good. He said so. Genesis 1:25 "They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanksgiving by people who know and believe the truth. Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it. We may receive it gladly, with thankful hearts. I Timothy 4:3-4
- 2. V. 1 _____ The things Paul is speaking about here are what is called ADIAPHORA that is " small things" (morally neutral things) as compared to the BIG things of the faith like the cross, the resurrection, Jesus as God's Son, Savior and King.
 - It is to be weak or immature in faith to make little things big things.
 - There are two dangers: (1) That believers who have moved on would be impatient and disapproving of those whose consciences are still connected to the rules of the world . (2) That those who have made small things big things would seek to make their legalisms the rule of the church. " So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink , , , , . Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on self-denial ...And rules of the world such as 'Don't handle, don't eat, don't touch. Such rules are mere human teachings that seem wise because they require strong devotion, humility, and severe bodily discipline. But they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person's evil thoughts and desires." Colossians 2:16-23
- 3. V 4. _____ Only the Lord knows the secrets of men and women who have become His children and servants. He knows how to fix them where things need to be fixed. We can put our finger on a problem -- but the power to heal is the Lord's. We are not to be " know it alls" sure that our view of Christian faith is the only way and try to force other people to conform to our viewpoint. • The history of the Christian church is full of Christians in power torturing and killing other Christians to make them right in faith.
- 4. V6 _____ The question is: "Whom do we please?" Do we live to please father or mother. Do we please the people we live among—go along with their opinions, religion, politics, prejudices, social rules ...to avoid making waves and be rejected even though we are uneasy about that. Do we live to please our selves—what entertains us, what satisfies our lusts and passions and preferences, our ambitions. Or do we ask ourselves, "What did the Lord eat and drink? Which people mattered to him? Whose will did he follow (the Father's)? How did he spend his time, energy, and money? What future did he envision?
- 5. V9 _____ It is wonderful news--that cheers our souls -- to know that when we have given ourselves to belong to Christ that He keeps us alive and well. If we live-- He protects and blesses us. If we die --He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death and takes us to the Father's house. Romans 8:38f
- 6. V10 _____ This is not the Great White Throne Judgment where those who have resisted Christ to their dying breath are judged and cast into hell. Revelation 20:11-15 This is the judgment for rewards. Some will have great rewards in heaven, others will enter heaven with only the smell of smoke on them. "There will come a time of

testing at judgment day...everyone's work will be tested ...put through the fire...If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builders will suffer great loss...though they will be saved." I Corinthians 3:11f

7. V23 _____ Every Christian has a belief system and conscience. Some of the "little things" are very important or non important to each Christian. God agrees with our belief system - conscience - and holds us to it.

What does this Scripture say to you?
