

“WALKING IN LOVE”
Romans 14:13-23
Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. Paul shifts from the “weak” to the strong. How are the strong to act?
(vv. 13-15)

“decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance”.

Reality: “nothing is clean in itself”

Conscience: “but it is unclean who thinks it unclean”

“if your brother is grieved” ... “do not destroy the one for whom Christ died”

Sibling > freedom!

“no longer walking in love” Love > freedom

Walking in love _____ our freedom to _____ others.

Leviticus 11

Mark 7:18-19

Acts 10:9-16

1 Corinthians 10; 24

Galatians 5:13

“Love limits its own liberty out of respect for them. For to wound a weaker brother’s conscience is not only to distress him but to ‘destroy’ him, and that is totally incompatible with love.”

-John Stott

“At the very least, it tempts the weak to harshness, a condemning spirit, a breaking of fellowship, and an unkind, ungracious spirit....”

-Tim Keller

II. Is this bigger than you and your brother? (vv. 16-19)

“Do not let what you regard as good to be spoken of as evil”

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking”

Kingdom > freedom

“... but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

“acceptable to God and approved by men”

App: “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

Walking in love prioritizes the _____ over _____.

1 Corinthians 10:31

“It is easier for them (the strong) to change their practice. They should show consideration for their weaker comrades and promote the cause of peace and unity.” -Leon Morris

“Far more important than censuring a weaker brother for some overscrupulous action is it to make a firm resolve not to hinder such a weak brother in any way.” -Leon Morris

III. What happens when freedom is more important to us than love?

(vv. 20-23)

“Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God”

“But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats”

Don't let your freedom _____ God's work.

1 Corinthians 8:7

2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

Digging Deeper:

1. Has there been a time you've grieved someone else by exercising your freedom. How could you have handled that differently?
2. When does your freedom become an idol? What does it take precedence over?
3. What in this text can help you develop more kingdom-consciousness?
4. What are the issues you have doubts about? How can your convictions be strengthened?