

June 15th, 2025 *Romans 14* Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

- 1. What part of the text/message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged? Intrigued? Challenged?
- 2. Take a look at <u>FBC's Traditions of Faith and Practice</u>. What areas might we be tempted to judge one another on?
- 3. Discuss the concept of Theological Triage. How can it help us sort through matters that we might be tempted to pass judgment on one another?
 - Why is it dangerous to treat **every** issue as equally important (as some legalistic churches do)?
 - On the flip side, what danger do we face if we treat **no** issue as important (as some liberal churches do)?

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- 4. Which of the sample personal convictions listed (tattoos, school choice, worship style, etc.) have caused division in churches you've been part of?
- 5. In your own words, what is the difference between being someone's Holy Spirit and being their brother/sister in Christ?

6. Think of a situation where you might need to lay down your freedoms for the sake of another believer. What might that look like?

STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	STRONG CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE	WEAK CONSCIENCE
but carelessly crossing the line into lawlessness and immorality	but looking down on those with a weaker conscience	fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than looking down on those with a weaker conscience	but free to be flexible in disputable matters in order to (1) edify fellow believers and (2) advance the gospel	fully persuaded, yet welcoming rather than judging those with a stronger conscience	but judging those with a stronger conscience	but crossing the line into legalism
eats meat	eats meat	eats meat	flexible	doesn't eat meat	doesn't eat meat	doesn't eat meat
"I have freedom not only to eat meat but to go to parties at idol temples." (cf. 1 Cor. 10:20-22)	"I have freedom to eat meat, and those who don't are being unreasonable and are in theological error."	"I have freedom to eat meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."	"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9:22b) (The goal of every believer)	I abstain from eating meat for the glory of God, but I still welcome Christians who disagree."	"It's sinful to eat meat, and Christians who do so are being unfaithful to God."	"You must follow the Old Testament dietary restrictions if you want to be a Christian."
HERESY	ARROGANCE	LOVE	LOVE	LOVE	JUDG- MENTALISM	HERESY
Distorts the gospel by lawless subtraction	Diminishes the gospel	Reveals the gospel	Magnifies the gospel	Reveals the gospel	Diminishes the gospel	Distorts the gospel by legalistic addition

"Our ultimate goal is not simply to stop judging those who are free or to stop looking down on those who are strict. Our ultimate goal is to follow the example of our Lord Jesus, who gave up his rights for others."

SOURCE: Naselli, Andrew David; Crowley, J. D.. **Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It, and Loving Those Who Differ** (pp. 95-96).

