

BUILDING UP EACH OTHER

Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 38

Romans 14:13-15:13

"In this way aim for harmony in the church and build each other up."

Romans 14:19 (TLB)

"Let's please the other fellow and not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord." Romans 15:2 (TLB)

I. WHATEVER WE DO AFFECTS OTHERS - BACKGROUND: "DISPUTABLE MATTERS"

"As one who's convinced in the Lord, I'm fully convinced that no food is unclean of itself but if anyone regards something as unclean then it is unclean for him." Romans 14:14

"For the kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking but righteousness and peace in the Holy Spirit because anyone who wants to serve Christ in this way is pleasing to God." Romans 14:17

"Don't destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes somebody else to stumble. It's better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall." Romans 14:20-21

My actions can cause other believers to:

1. Stumble

"Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister." Romans 14:13

2. be distressed.

"If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love." Romans 14:15a

3. be destroyed

"Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died."

Romans 14:15b

II. HOW WE ARE TO BUILD UP EACH OTHER

1. By committing ourselves to building each other.

2. By recognizing the value of every person.

3. By keeping our focus on what's really important.

"Don't allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and is approved of men."

Romans 14:16-18

4. Limiting our liberty out of love for each other.

"Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean. But it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It's better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else that will cause your brother to fall." Romans 14:20-21

When is something "wrong" for us to do?

"Everyone who sins breaks the Law. In fact, sin is lawlessness."

1 John 3:4

"Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it sins."

James 4:17

"But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats because his eating is not from faith and everything that does not come from faith is sin." Romans 14:23

"Be careful, however, in the exercise of your freedom. Be careful that it does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother for whom Christ died is destroyed by your

knowledge. When you sin against your brother in this way and wound their weak consciences you sin against Christ." 1 Cor. 8:9-13

"Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial. Everything is beneficial but not everything is constructive."
1 Cor. 10:23

5. Not forcing my opinion on others.

"So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves." Romans 14:22

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

6. By living by faith.

"But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin." Romans 14:23

III. WHY WE ARE TO BUILD UP EACH OTHER (15:1-13)

1. THE RESPONSIBILITY: to encourage them

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up." Romans 15:1-2

2. THE REASON:

"For even Christ did not please Himself but, as it is written: 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me.' For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Romans 15:3-4

- The example of Christ
- The teaching of Scripture

3. THE RESULTS:

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

- The church is unified!
- God is glorified!

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Romans 15:7

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13