

Romans 14:12-18

The Kingdom of God is...

The Kingdom of God is not...



*The first time I learned about submission – about giving up our rights.

Summer Camp 1970



In chapter 14, Paul lays out the argument for Christian submission, the laying down of our individual rights for the greater good - the promotion of unity in the church. It's all about the mission!



Vs. 12 - Some day we will all have to explain our own actions, attitudes, values, choices, and... yes,.. *judgments*, to God! Our judgment of others will mean nothing on that day! His judgment means *everything*, so worry about your own!



Vs. 13-15 – The laying down of our rights. The one time it is wrong to do what is right! Flaunting freedom, in this situation, could unleash a deadly contagion of sin, guilt, and discouragement over the entire body and robbed it of anything resembling the power of team!



Vs. 16 – “Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil”

But Paul was hoping to change minds not start a war in the church. But he also was not asking them to grovel - to just cave in to pressure from the others



Does this mean we must always cater to the least mature among us – always giving in to someone’s oversensitive conscience? No!

So why cater to the weaker brothers in *this* case? (11:28)



Vs. 17,18 – Keep talking about the things that matter – righteousness, peace, joy - but not all these other peripheral matters. If you must fight, fight with the weapons of love and truth, not rancor and animosity (vs.15)!



The true followers of Jesus always win by means of being inexhaustibly persistent in wielding the velveteen weapons of truth and love of their Savior. We fight tenaciously for the state of the church, so that religious charlatans, theological disorder, or movements toward the periphery do not take over!

NEVER EVER
EVER
GIVE UP!



We must stay on track. Human souls hang in the balance!

