

“To Mask or Not to Mask? Checking Our Attitudes”

Romans 14:1-23 August 9, 2020

Galatians Series- Living the Gospel in the Power of the Spirit

Big Idea- The gospel that Paul preached to the Galatians (and to us) is the most important issue. There are many non-essential viewpoints within the church (including following the Mosaic Law). There is freedom to follow certain parts of the law, but no one should feel compelled or compel others to follow their own views in non-essential issues. Paul does not want the church thinking in terms of “I’m right, you’re wrong”, but instead to focus on tolerant and loving attitudes towards each other in these issues. We live to the Lord alone and have no right to judge or show contempt for our Christian family.

Background Texts- **1 Cor 4:1-6; 8:1-3; 10:1-31; Lev 11; Numbers 6:1-21.**

LESSON 1- Believers are to be known for their UNITY

- A. The unity between family means no judging or CONTEMPT (Romans 14:1-3)
- B. Unity recognizes that we answer to Jesus only. HE is LORD (Romans 14:4-5; Non-essential issues is the context; **1 Cor 5:1-13**)

LESSON 2- Believers are to be known for their HUMILITY

- A. Humility recognizes that each one should be fully CONVINCED (Romans 14:5-9)
- B. Humility causes us not to judge or show CONTEMPT (Romans 14:10-12- we will all stand before the Lord’s judgment)

LESSON 3- Believers are to be known for their TOLERANCE

- A. Tolerance means that we walk in peace and not DESTRUCTION (Romans 14:13-23)

Theological Application:

- 1) *The Majority were condescending and showing scorn.*
- 2) *The Minority were self-righteous and were judging.*
- 3) *“But I feel” – Romans 13?*
- 4) *Galatians 5:13-16- Live by the Spirit and don’t devour one another!*
- 5) *Pastoral responsibility*

**“If you love others you will wear a mask- You are unloving, unkind and uncaring”
“If you love others you wouldn’t force your viewpoints on others; You are self-righteous, fearful sheep who don’t follow the science”**

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

When the going gets tough as we approach the end times, we need to be PREPARED Biblically to love and support one another with these principles or else we will DEVOUR one another over items that are OPINIONS

Galatians 5:13-16

¹³ ¶ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵ **But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!**

¹⁶ ¶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. ⁶ It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth.