

## Unity and Personal Conviction Pt.1-2

October 26, 2014 AM, PM

### Ephesians 4:1–3

- 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
- 2 With all lowliness (*humility of mind*) and meeekness (*gentleness, consideration*), with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
- 3 **ENDEAVOURING** (*make every effort, give diligence, make haste*) **TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.**

- *In the absence of peaceful relationships (disharmony) the Holy Spirit cannot freely flow because the unity of hearts is broken.*
- *Is having things your way according to your opinions and your preferences really worth forfeiting the presence and flow of the Holy Spirit?*

### Romans 14:1-2

- 1 **HIM THAT IS WEAK IN THE FAITH RECEIVE YE, but NOT TO DOUBTFUL DISPUTATIONS.**
- 2 **For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.**

*Acts 10:13–15*

*13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.*

*14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

*15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

*1 Corinthians 8:4–7*

*4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.*

*7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.*

- *True holiness and godliness originate in the heart, not in outward actions.*
- *Outward cleanliness does not change who you are inside; God wants to change who and what you are inside.*

*Matthew 15:17–20*

*17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?*

*18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.*

*19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:*

*20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

Romans 2:28–29

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

#### Romans 14:1-12

3 LET NOT HIM THAT EATETH DESPISE HIM THAT EATETH NOT; and LET NOT HIM WHICH EATETH NOT JUDGE HIM THAT EATETH: FOR GOD HAS RECEIVED HIM.

4 WHO ARE THOU THAT JUDGEST ANOTHER MAN'S SERVANT? TO HIS OWN MASTER HE STANDETH OR FALLETH. YEA, HE SHALL BE HOLDEN UP: FOR GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE HIM STAND.

5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. LET EVERY MAN BE FULLY PERSUADED IN HIS OWN MIND.

6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

7 FOR NONE OF US LIVETH TO HIMSELF, AND NO MAN DIETH TO HIMSELF.

8 FOR WHETHER WE LIVE, WE LIVE UNTO THE LORD; AND WHETHER WE DIE, WE DIE UNTO THE LORD: WHETHER WE LIVE THEREFORE, OR DIE, WE ARE THE LORD'S.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 SO THEN EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD.

#### PERSONAL CONSCIENCE & CONVICTION

- *There are matters of righteousness and sin clearly defined in the Scriptures, and are therefore the non-negotiable standard of faith and conduct. There are matters of personal discretion which are not clearly defined, to be determined by the individual conscience before God.*
- *Examples:*

*worldly entertainment, movies, TV*

**non-negotiable standard** - 2 Corinthians 10:5, *"...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*

**personal discretion** - *"Do I go to movie theaters? Do I have a TV in the home?"*

*alcoholic drinks*

**non-negotiable standard** - Ephesians 5:18, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess..."*

**personal discretion** - *having a glass of wine at a meal or in the evening*

*tithing*

**non-negotiable standard** - Christians should give cheerfully, consistently and proportionally what they receive from God - see 2 Cor 8:1-15, 2 Cor 9:6-7, 1 Cor 9:6-9

**personal discretion** - "Do I 'tithe'? Do I give based on percentage?"

*earthly government*

**non-negotiable standard** - pray for leaders 1 Tim 2:1-2 - obey the laws 1 Pet 2:13

**personal discretion** - voting, campaigning, protesting, petitions?

*church or ministry attendance*

**non-negotiable standard** - "Not forsaking (abandon, desert) the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

**personal discretion** - level of commitment and involvement based upon ability, life priorities and life balance

*child-rearing*

**non-negotiable standard** - Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

**personal discretion** - public school, private school or home school?

- *Matters of personal discretion and conscience are IMPERATIVE to our individual growth in our personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.*

*Paul warns us to never let another man decide those matters for us, thereby robbing from us the exercise of our faith.*

*Colossians 2:16 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days."*

- *Only by the trial and error of life experience, as orchestrated by God's sovereignty, can we discover our own personal faith and conviction.*

*Hebrews 5:14 "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

- *Paul instructs us to NOT encroach upon another believer's personal conscience and conviction, knowing that they answer to God, not us. Respect another believer's responsibility to establish their faith between God and them alone.*

Romans 14:13 *"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."*

- *Those with spiritual sensitivities can usually find justification and principles to support their conviction, but if it is not expressly defined in the Scriptures, it cannot become a universal, non-negotiable command for all.*

1 Corinthians 8:7 *"...for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."*