

What Do We Do?
Prevent Stumbling
Romans 14:13-23

Romans 6:11, Ecclesiastes 2:1

We can use our liberty to pursue love by:

1. Contributing To People's Spiritual Growth (*Romans 14:13-15*)
2. Embracing Kingdom Priorities (*Romans 14:16-18*)
3. Building Up the Church Community (*Romans 14:19-21*)
4. Talking About Our Freedom With Discretion (*Romans 14:22*)
5. Making Decisions By Faith (*Romans 14:23*)

We are PERMITTED to enjoy that freedom, not COMMANDED to enjoy it.

1 Corinthians 8:8-13

The issue is not whether you think something is wrong.
The question is, would you be willing to give it up
if it were a stumbling block to others?

Slides

What Do We Do Now?
Prevent Stumbling
Romans 14:13-23

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Romans 6:11 ESV So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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Ecclesiastes 2:1 NLT I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless.

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Romans 14:13-15 NLT So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a

way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. ¹⁴ I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. ¹⁵ And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died.

We use our liberty to pursue love by:

1. Contributing to other people's spiritual growth.

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A stumbling block is something that trips a person up in their walk with Jesus, causing them to fall away from their faith.

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Romans 14:16-18 NLT Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. ¹⁷ For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

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We use our liberty to pursue love by

2. Embracing Kingdom priorities.

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Romans 14:19-21 NLT So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. ²⁰ Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

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What we do in our spiritual life has a significant impact on our church community.

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We can use our liberty to pursue love by:

3. Building Up the Church Community.

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Are you building up the church or are you a demolition expert when it comes to the church?

Romans 14:22 NLT You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right.

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We can use our liberty to pursue love by:

4. Talking About Our Freedom With Discretion.

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Romans 14:23 NLT But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

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We can use our liberty to pursue love by:

5. Making Decisions By Faith.

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Any decision that isn't an expression of our dependency on God is displeasing to God.

Romans 12:1-2 NIV Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

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We are PERMITTED to enjoy that freedom, not COMMANDED to enjoy it.

We are PERMITTED to enjoy that freedom, not COMMANDED to enjoy it.
Just because you CAN, doesn't mean you SHOULD.

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1 Corinthians 8:8-13 ESV Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin

against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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The question is, would you be willing to give it up
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