

There Is Room at the Cross – Romans 14  
(adiophora = Things neither commanded nor forbidden  
i.e. matters of Conscience)

Here are some things that could be considered Adiophora (notice I said “could be”) I didn’t say they are – I’m sure we will have lively debates about these things – and that is the point.

*Tatoos, piercings, having church on a certain day, drinking, smoking, playing the lottery, wearing certain kinds of clothes (mini-skirts, revealing clothes, etc.), watching R rated movies, men with long hair... you get the idea.*

- I. God’s Servants Must Accept Fellow Servants (Rom. 14:1-4)
  - a. Allow for Adiophora (14:1-3a)
    - i. Love the brother who is weak in faith (14:1)
      1. We will see that “weak” means one who has not yet come to a full understanding of their freedom in Christ.
        - a. (they still have their superman suit on)
      2. Winning the argument is not always the way to “love”
      3. You can be “right” and still be wrong in how you approach it.
      4. “doubtful disputations” means by differing opinions
    - ii. Love Makes Room for Adiophora (14:2-3a)
      1. Weak = not understanding
        - a. The Jewish believers had grown up with dietary laws that defined whether they were clean or unclean before God.
          - i. People who ate certain things or didn’t follow certain rituals were unclean before God.
        - b. Of course we know that Jesus paid it all, but some were not so quick to give up all those regulations they had been raised with, even after they came to Christ.
      2. Make room for God to grow people
        - a. He had to grow you in all kinds of ways
        - b. He will grow all His children – It is guaranteed
  - b. God’s Grace Is Sufficient For Adiophora (14:3-4)
    - i. We cannot undo another’s Forgiveness (14:3-4a)
      1. Only the master can charge the servant
        - a. Scripture brings the charge
        - b. You cannot charge another with wrongdoing where the Scripture does not charge them with wrongdoing
        - c. We must be silent where scripture is silent

- d. You must allow God to grow their conscience to accept freedom in Christ.
  - ii. God's grace upholds the Forgiven (14:4b)
    - 1. Grace is either 100% or it is 0%
    - 2. Saved is saved – there are no levels of acceptance in Jesus Christ.
- II. God's Servants Must Live By their Own Conscience (14:5-16)
  - a. Men Answer according to their conscience (14:5-11)
    - i. Servants honor God by Obeying their Conscience (14:5-6a)
      - 1. Each man must obey his own conscience (14:5-6a)
        - a. Regarding holy days
        - b. Regarding adiaphora
        - c. He MUST be FULLY convinced in his own mind (5b)
      - 2. Each man must live his conscience in God's honor (6)
        - a. One man abstains in God's honor
          - i. Honoring Holiness, Perfection, Righteousness
        - b. One man partakes in God's honor
          - i. Honoring Grace, Sacrifice, Perfection
    - ii. Servants Belong To God and Will Give Account (14:7-11)
      - 1. We Live For God (Dative of Advantage *–for the benefit of God*)
        - a. We likewise die for His benefit (8)
        - b. We do not live or die for ourselves (8)
      - 2. We were Purchased For God by Christ (9)
        - a. As purchased servants, everything in our lives is for God.
      - 3. We will Give our own Account (14:10-11)
        - a. Why Do you look down on The man living his conscience? (10)
          - i. If he thinks its wrong then it is wrong
          - ii. If you convince him to go against his conscience you have caused him to sin
        - b. All will give their own account (12)
  - b. We Must Allow Men to Live According to their Conscience (14:13-17)
    - i. We must Judge Ourselves (13)
      - 1. Don't regulate another's conscience
      - 2. Never cause someone to violate their conscience
      - 3. Even if it means you curtail your freedom (14)
    - ii. We must not Usurp Another's Conscience
      - 1. Each person is subject to his own conscience (14)
      - 2. Each must walk in love
        - a. Do not impose your freedom on another's conscience
        - b. Do not destroy his conscience – Christ died

- III. God's Servants Include the Strong and the Weak (14:17-23)
  - a. We must not divide the Kingdom with legalistic regulations (17-20a)
    - i. God's Kingdom is not only rules – but relationship (17)
      - 1. Not just Do this, don't do that – Righteousness in HS, Peace in HS, and Joy in HS
    - ii. Build God's Kingdom by Edification (18-19)
      - 1. Serving God in Christ is Enough (18)
      - 2. Pursue Peace and building God's Servant (19)
    - iii. Don't Divide God's Kingdom Over Legalistics (20a)
  - b. The Strong in Faith must Accept the Weak (20b-23)
    - i. **The Strong should curtail His freedom for the Weak's sake** (20b-22)
      - 1. THIS IS THE POINT - Your freedom in Christ becomes your sin when it causes another brother to stumble.
      - 2. Your conscience is clear when you have no reason to pass judgment on yourself for your brother's sake
    - ii. The Weak in Faith is still bound by His Conscience (23)
      - 1. The weak faithed sins if he eats – even though believers are not bound to food laws anymore.
      - 2. He has not fully understood faith.
        - a. God is still growing him
        - b. You must allow him room to grow
        - c. Do not cause him to live against his conscience.
        - d. Grace is for all believers, wherever they are currently in their walk with God.