

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀ Can you think of a issue that is a non-essential of the faith that you are "strong," or free to express more liberty in? _____.
Can you think of someone in your life who is "weak" or more constrained in that area? Who _____? Now, according to (Rom. 14:21) what are you (the "strong") supposed to do in the presence of that other person (the "weak") _____?
- ☀ So does that mean that those who are "strong," or those who are liberated in some non-essential area, are always bound to restrict the expression of that spiritual liberty? YES / NO Look at (Romans 14:22) to find the answer.
- ☀ Rom. 14:15 reminds us of the fact that Christ died for us. He set aside so much in order to love us. Don't you think you can set aside some of your small liberties in order to love others? When you limit your liberties, you express love for others.
- ☀ We must embrace our brothers more tightly than our liberties. That means the "strong" need to focus on pursuing _____ (v. 19a), and mutual _____ (v. 19b). How can you practically edify or build up a fellow believer who differs from you in an area of non-essentials _____? Pray and ask God to help you do that this week. This kind of love doesn't just happen. Self-denying, sacrificial love requires a work of God's Spirit. Pray for it.
- ☀ Is God's economy really based on the currency of our liberties? Does his Kingdom really revolve around whether you can wear this, or drink that, or watch this, or read that? No. According to (v. 17) the Kingdom of God is in _____, _____, and _____. Seek first God's Kingdom this week, not your own liberties.
- ☀ When it comes to the expression of these "non-essentials of the faith," we should ask ourselves the following questions to help guide us. Can I give thanks to God for this (v. 6b)? Can I do this in faith (v. 23b)? Can I do this to the honor and glory of the Lord (v. 6a)? Can I do this with a clear conscience (v. 23a)? Will this cause another brother to stumble, fall, or be grieved (v. 15)? Asking these questions before we express our liberties will help us love others, and not condemn ourselves.

