RENEWED, ROOTED, READY
Romans 12-16

Romans 14:12-23

How do I exercise my freedom in Christ not causing someone to stumble?

-OR-

“It is none of your business.” / Really?!

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12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves
to God.
13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one
another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any
stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or
sister. 14 I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the
Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if
anyone regards something as unclean, then for that
person it is unclean.

Romans 14:12-14

15 If your brother or sister is distressed because of
what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not
by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.
16 Therefore do not let what you know is good be
spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a
matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness,
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone
who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and
receives human approval.

Romans 14:15-18

19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads
to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy
the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean,
but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes
someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat
meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will
cause your brother or sister to fall.

Romans 14:19-21

22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Romans 14:22-23

Who are we?

- Weak **and** Strong

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Who are we?

- Weak and Strong
- Weak **or** Strong

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Who are we?

- Weak and Strong
- Weak or Strong ≠ Right or Wrong

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Practical principles

- Voluntary self-restrain
  - “do not …” “not to put …” “make every effort …”
- Tolerance
  - “accept the one …” “stop passing judgment …”
- Practice

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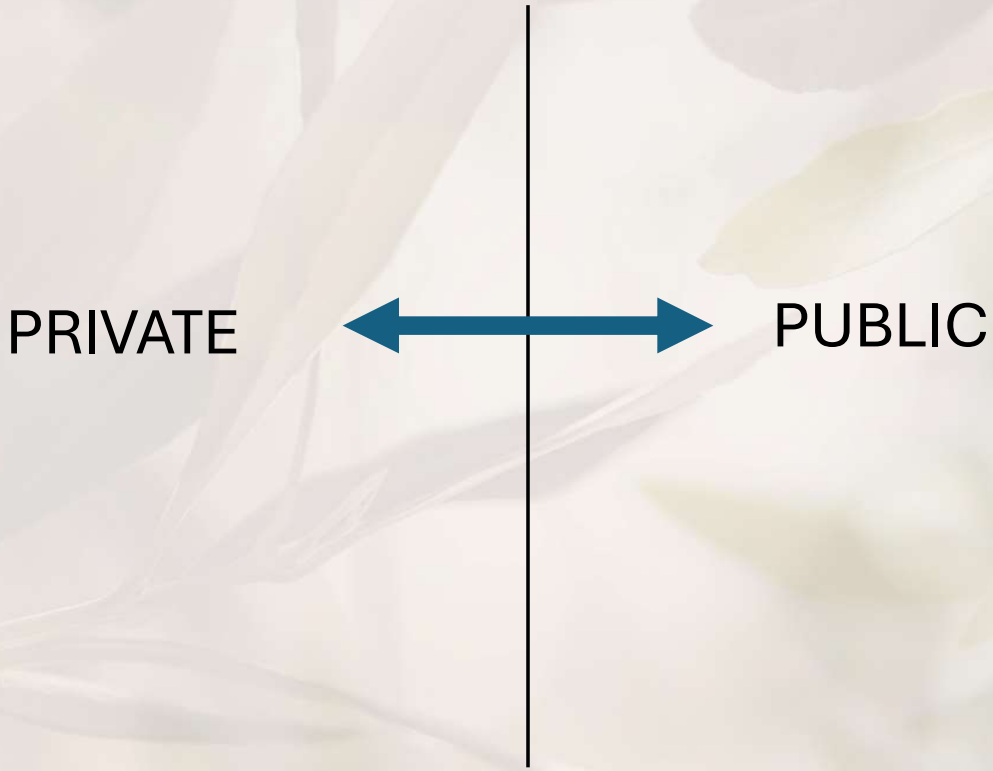
Border line



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Pollution

Do not pollute other’s conscience!

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Pollution

- Environmental issues:
  - land pollution
  - water pollution
  - air pollution
  - noise pollution

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Pollution

- Environ*mental* issues:
  - land pollution
  - water pollution
  - air pollution
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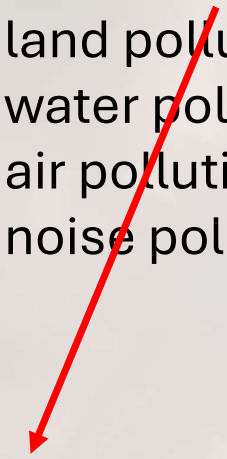

- Mental issue:
  - conscience pollution

Do not pollute other's conscience!

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Old Testament Covenant

- Moral Law
- Civil Law
- Ceremonial Law
  - Eating
  - Days
  - Dressing
  - . . .

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What’s the matter?

It is not the eating or dressing that saves, but it can be the eating or dressing that destroys.

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I A E U

D_STR_CTION and D_STR_CTION

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I A E U

DISTRACTION and DESTRUCTION

v15. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died!

v20. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food!

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I A E U

DISTRACTION and DESTRUCTION

v15. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died!

v20. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food!

v21. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

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Drinking

- Priests
- Nazirites
- Rekabites

- Service
- Vow
- Abstinence

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Shift the focus

v17-18. For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

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Shift the focus

v17-18. For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is **pleasing to God** and receives **human approval**.

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“Mercy and truth are met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

Ps85:10

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