



The Black & White on Gray Areas

Keeping a Clear Conscience

Romans 14:22-23

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 3 & 4, 2011 • Book of Romans week 91 • CD 11-35

1. Be _____ (v.22b-23a)

22 *The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.*
23 *But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)*

2. When _____ (v.23b)

3. Never _____ (v.22a)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Acts 24:16** and **2 Corinthians 8:21**. Why do you think this dual concern is so often ignored by Christians today?
2. Read **2 Corinthians 1:12**. Describe a situation regarding a "gray area" when "the testimony of your conscience" was not something you could boast about. How did you rationalize away the fact that you were conflicted in your heart?
3. Read **Acts 16:1-5**. Remembering the context (i.e., in Acts 15 all affirmed that the ceremonial law of circumcision was most definitely rescinded in this New Covenant age), describe in your own words why Paul would have Timothy circumcised. Then list one or two liberties you have chosen to not exercise out of a love and concern for those you evangelize or fellowship with in the church.
4. What are some of the "gray areas" that have been on your mind throughout this five-part series in Romans 14, which may need to be reconsidered in your life?

What difference has this study made in the way you think about those issues and how you will make decisions regarding them?

For sermons on MP3 go to FPR.info. The following are other available sermons related to today's subject matter.

- CD # 0325 – **Why You Feel Like a Loser When You Try to be Nice**
- CD # 1131 – **Sorting Out God's Orders from Our Opinions**
- CD # 0655 – **God's Grace Against the Backdrop of Inexcusable Sin**
- CD # 0834 – **No Excuses About the Man in the Jungle**
- CD # 0934 – **Confronting the Enemy Within**

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (*Reading Plans: Through the Bible*) for schedule prompts.

December 4th
Dan.3-4 & 1Jn.3

December 5th
Dan.5-6 & 1Jn.4

December 6th
Dan.7-8 & 1Jn.5

December 7th
Dan.9-10 & 2Jn.

December 8th
Dan.11-12 & 3Jn.

December 9th
Hos.1-4 & Jude

December 10th
Hos.5-8 & Rev.1

December 11th
Hos.9-11 & Rev.2

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Erickson, Millard. **Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to Postmodernism**. Baker Books, 1998.
- Lundgaard, Kris. **The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin**. P & R Publishing, 1998.
- MacArthur, John. **The Gospel According to the Apostles: The Role of Works in the Life of Faith**. Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- _____. **The Vanishing Conscience: Drawing the Line in a No-Fault, Guilt-Free World**. Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- Owen, John. **Overcoming Sin & Temptation**. Crossway Books, 2006.
- Packer, J. I. **A Quest for Godliness**. Crossway Books, 1994.
- Pettegrew, Larry D. **The New Covenant Ministry of the Holy Spirit**. Kregel, 2001.
- Reed, Gerard. **C. S. Lewis Explores Vice and Virtue**. Beacon Hill Press, 2001.
- Ryken, Philip Graham, ed. **The Communion of the Saints: Living in Fellowship with the People of God**. P & R, 2001.
- Ryle, J. C. **Holiness: It's Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots**. Moody Press, 2010.
- Ryrie, Charles. **The Holy Spirit**. Revised and Expanded. Moody Press, 1997.
- Sproul, R. C. **The Mystery of the Holy Spirit: Discover the Work of the Living Spirit of the Living God**. Tyndale, 1990.
- Thomas, W. H. Griffith. **The Holy Spirit of God**. Eerdmans Publishing, 1955.
- Venning, Ralph. **The Sinfulness of Sin**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1997.
- Walvoord, John. **The Holy Spirit: A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**. Zondervan, 1991.