

Selected Readings

The births of royalty today do not go unnoticed. The advance of media communication has made it possible for the entire earth to know within minutes the birth of a new prince or princess. Such was not the case in the first century. When Jesus was born, the record of that event was not published in any newspaper, trumpeted over the airwaves, or heralded across the internet. Secular historians paid no attention to it. Only two (Matthew and Luke) authentic accounts were produced, and they were not composed until at least fifty years after the actual birth. These narratives form an integral part of the New Testament. Upon them rests the traditional belief of the church in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

~Excerpts from *The Virgin Birth* (pg. 81)

by Robert Gromacki (current theologian)

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Song #197 ~ The Power of the Cross

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 62:1-12

Song #172 ~ Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Scripture Reading: Psalm 63:1-11

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 14:13-15

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #221 ~ His Mercy is More

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

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Text: Romans 14:13-15

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) Instead of passing judgment on one another over secondary issues, let us judge those things that can cause our brother or sister in Christ to stumble into sin (v. 13; cf. v. 21).

A. Paul is not talking about those things which are offensive to our brother or sister in Christ, but rather, he is referring to those things which cause our brother or sister to stumble into sin.

1. The weaker in faith should not impose his conscience on every other believer in the local church.
2. Nor should the stronger in faith impose his conscience on every other believer in the local church.

B. For Paul, he would not eat meat if it could cause a brother or sister in Christ to stumble into idolatry (cf. 1 Cor. 8:13).

1. Would you be willing to set aside your Christian liberty in order to not cause a brother or sister in Christ to stumble?
2. Are you willing to allow a brother or sister in Christ their liberty in secondary issues?

II) Nothing is unclean in itself (v. 14; cf. v. 20; 1 Cor. 10:26).

A. Paul is absolutely convinced of this truth that nothing is unclean (note the two verbs at the beginning of the verse).

B. Paul is persuaded by the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. This could be a reference to the direct teaching of Jesus (cf. Mark 7:14-23). Notice that Paul uses the name referring to His earthly life—Jesus.

2. Paul could be referring to his fellowship with Christ.

C. How can everything (excluding the moral law) be clean?

1. Because everything comes from God (cf. 1 Cor. 8:4-7). God is not the author of sin, therefore, anything that exists and used for His purposes is clean. Unfortunately, man perverts God's good gifts (i.e. making wood into idols).

D. When your conscience bothers you, you should not go against your conscience.

1. You may be tempted to “inform” your conscience so that you can partake of something, but this would be wrong. Instead, in issues of conscience, you must obey your conscience—God has ordained that (cf. v. 4).

III) When you partake of something that causes your brother in Christ to stumble into sin, you are not acting in love (v. 15; cf. v. 20).

A. Are you destroying your brother in Christ?

1. The stronger in faith have a unique opportunity to crush their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ by partaking of something that would cause them to stumble into sin.
2. Before you drink alcohol—which is within your liberty—remember that your liberty may embolden your brother in Christ to go against his conscience.

B. You ought to love your Christian brother like Christ loves you and gave Himself up on your behalf.

1. When you find yourself looking down on your brother in Christ for his restrictions remind yourself that Christ died for him.